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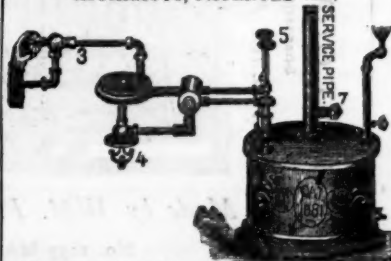
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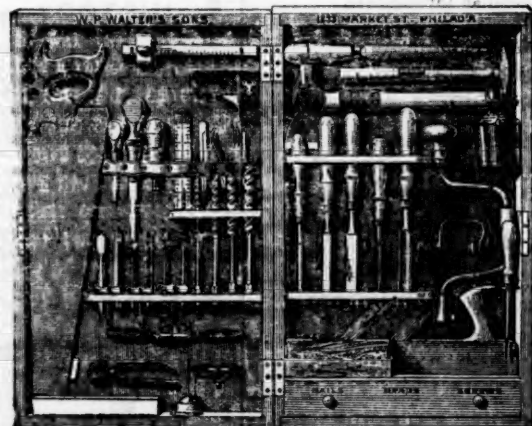
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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

THE very narrow victory won by the Civil Service Reformers in their prosecution of General CURTIS for collecting assessments from office-holders, has been confirmed to them by the Supreme Court, on grounds which serve to emphasize its narrowness. The Court holds that the law cannot be construed as an unconstitutional invasion of the private rights of the office-holders, as they are left at liberty to pay what they please, and anybody not in office is at liberty to dun them for assessments. The JAY HUBBELLS are not reached by this or by any other law. They may open offices right in the rear of our custom-houses for party collections, and send their agents and their circulars through every bureau. It is only the superfluity of naughtiness involved in having officials do the work that the law cares about.

THE PENDLETON Bill has ceased to be the PENDLETON Bill, having been adopted by the Republican caucus of Senators, and put into Mr. HAWLEY's charge to secure its passage at the earliest date possible. The warmest support given it has been from the Republican side, Mr. HOAR, Mr. HAWLEY and Mr. MILLER, of New York, having taken a leading part, while Mr. INGALLS from the Republican side, and Mr. BROWN from the Democratic, have wasted their rhetoric in opposing it. With so much unanimity in its favor, the bill should have passed very promptly; but in fact it has occupied days and weeks of the Senate, which might have been employed in other legislation.

Its passage by the House seems beyond question. Mr. KASSON's attempt to anticipate its arrival from the Senate by pressing his own less thorough measure to a debate, has been defeated; and the House means to spend its time on appropriation bills until this comes up for action. There is no doubt that it will receive the votes of many Congressmen who have no great faith in it. Several such members are quoted as promising it their votes but not their interest. This is due in great part to the narrowness of the average Congressman. He knows how our present system works, and he has no very lively sense of the tremendous mischiefs which accompany it. He has not imagination enough to conceive of any other or better arrangement. To him the whole measure is a leap in the dark. But some part of this distaste for the measure may be charged with fairness to its defective and superficial character. It is a peddling bill, pruning away here an abuse and there an abuse, without effecting any real revolution or evolution of the existing system.

THE House, after refusing to have a holiday recess, was obliged to vote it, under the pressure of general applications for leave of absence on urgent personal grounds. This furnishes one more proof of the hold that the Christmas festival has taken of late years upon the American people, and shows that a necessity has arisen for a readjustment of the national calendar. Congress must begin its sessions earlier in the year, so that the weeks before the Christmas holidays may amount to something as an opportunity for work. Ordinarily the members have but begun to warm to their seats when this interruption comes; and the feeling grows that nobody need expect to accomplish anything before January.

The present year, in contrast especially to the short session of 1874-5, has been exceptionally fruitful of results, and four of the appropriation bills have passed the House; great questions have been debated in both houses; a fair amount of work has gone through Committees. Altogether, we have reason to hope that this will be an exemplary session, and one whose results will tend to unite and inspirit the Republican party.

THE Ways and Means Committee is busy with the consideration of the Tariff Commission, and intends to report a number of the schedules

to the House before it has gone through the whole Tariff. The Senate Committee on Commerce has the matter in hand also, as an amendment to a House bill referred to it includes the Report. The joint action of the two houses, therefore, will be the outcome of a threefold study of the Tariff, by three groups of moderate reformers.

A large number of recommendations have passed the Committee of Ways and Means without alteration, but in some the alterations are very important, and involve the questionable policy of increasing duties on raw materials beyond the proposals of the Commission. But on nickel the Committee reduce the proposed duty by a fourth, for no reason that we can see, unless it be to give this industry back into the hands of foreigners, and thus raise the price of nickel to what it cost before its production in America was begun.

The duty on books is one to which the committee should give close attention. It seems to us that a general duty on books, without any attempt at classification, is an absurdity of the first order, but if such we must have, it should be a specific duty on their weight, such as the Philadelphia publishers proposed. Under any *ad valorem* duty, books should be classified. Any which are too costly or too little in demand to forbid their reproduction, should come in free. So should books in foreign languages, with the exception of school and college editions of ancient and modern classics. But upon ordinary books the old duty of twenty-five per cent. was not too high, and if the exceptions we have indicated were made, those who now complain the most, and the most justly, would have no grievance from that duty. The duty of fifteen per cent. will help to increase the foreign competition with an overstocked trade, that of the compositor. What that competition may effect is shown by the fact, mentioned incidentally in a recent English novel, that seven pence half-penny a thousand ems is the regular pay for setting minion in London offices. This would be, say, fifteen cents a thousand ems. The rate in Philadelphia "book offices," under the rules of the Typographical Union, is now forty cents per thousand ems.

SPEAKING of books reminds us that the prospect of a new building for what is called the Library of Congress, but ought to be called the National Library, is still remote. The bill reported to the Senate by the Committee on Library has been recommitted for a variety of reasons. Some suspected a job in the plan to buy a large slice of private property as a site for the new building. Some objected to any removal of the books from the Capitol. They would rather have the books lie in slow ruin through dust and damp, piled in heaps which nobody can consult, and in imminent danger from destruction by fire, than have a manageable library of reference in the Capitol, and the rest within summons by telephone and pneumatic express. To speak plainly, Congress has no right to levy a toll upon every book printed in the country, and then make no provision for proper care of them. That most of these books cost the nation nothing is the more reason for taking precautions against their loss or destruction. Every publisher and author in America is defrauded by the legislation which demands a copy and then throws it down anywhere that stacking-room can be had.

THE House Committee on Pensions has reported a bill which this Congress should leave to the next. It is a proposal to put on the pension list all who served sixty days in the Mexican war or thirty days in the Indian wars, not excepting those who afterwards fought against their country in the War of the Rebellion. The bill is a bad one for three reasons: First, it extends Government assistance to those who received no injury in the Government's service. None but the injured and the bereaved have any right to be considered. Secondly, it furnishes a public condonation of the offence of rebellion. It was right enough not to inflict any needless disabilities upon those who took part

in the war on the wrong side. But it is not right to put them in every respect upon the same footing with those who sealed their loyalty with their blood. If this bill is to pass, it should be amended to include pensions to all who were injured in the defence of the Southern Confederacy. We suspect it is meant as an entering wedge to prepare for such a measure, on the "God knows which was right" principle. Thirdly, it is an extension of the national expenditures in a direction in which retrenchment is needed sorely. The people rose against the River and Harbor bill, which spent a large sum, partly wisely, partly otherwise. This bill involves an expenditure of four or five times as much, and every dollar wasted.

ONCE more the effort is made by the Senate to secure the payment of the French spoliation claims. The bill has passed some half dozen times; it has had the sanction of nearly every great name in our political history for three generations, but it never has become a law. Let this short session be made memorable by the passage of a measure to pay a claim of eighty years' standing, for whose payment France sent us the money when the present members of Congress were interested chiefly in "shinny" and "prisoner's base."

SOME of our River and Harbor Statesmen have taken their revenge on the newspapers of the Eastern cities, by refusing to appropriate money for the fast-mail service between those cities. This service, however, does not exist for the sake of the New York newspapers. Only the limited number of persons who, while living at a distance, subscribe for those newspapers ever use it. The daily papers are sent between the cities by a private arrangement which far outruns the mail, and are sold by agents to non-subscribers. We presume it is not intended to forbid this arrangement.

We do not see, however, that the public will lose much by the refusal to continue the service. At no time within our recollection has there been anything that deserves to be called a fast-mail service between New York and Philadelphia. At no time has it been possible to have a letter which was mailed in the forenoon, in the one city, delivered in the other on the same day, although trains run from city to city in two hours. We presume that under any arrangement, letters mailed to-day in New York will be at hand to-morrow in Philadelphia. Even the emigrant trains would do that for us.

ONCE more the whiskey distillers come before Congress to ask leave to postpone the payment of the tax on whiskey, by keeping it in bond for two years longer than the law now permits. It seems that the production of whiskey greatly exceeds the consumption; the general use of beer, the extension of Prohibition not only in States but in counties of States, and perhaps the Temperance agitation, have contributed to diminish the use of this fiery beverage. On the other hand, owing to a variety of circumstances, more whiskey, not less, has been produced, and the quantity which soon will have been in bond for the three years fixed by law far exceeds the amount which the market can absorb. If the law be enforced, many large houses will be ruined by the payment of the tax. The relief asked is the extension of three years to five.

There are reasons both ways. For the measure, it may be said that these distillers pay a very large share of the public revenue, and therefore have some rights to be considered in the mode of collection. Also, that whiskey kept for five years is less deleterious to the human system than if kept three. Also that modern business is so complex, that the ruin of this class of business-men might be an injury to others who take no part in this traffic, even remotely.

On the other hand, it must be remembered that this particular business has exerted itself in politics in a way that entitles it to no consideration at the hands of Republicans, other than the barest justice; that the losses to be incurred grew out of speculations which should be covered by no government guarantee; that such a law as they ask might prove a very embarrassing precedent in dealing with other public creditors, and would disturb all calculations as to the current amount of the national revenue. At the very least, an extension of time should be accompanied by an increase of duty equivalent to the interest on the sum whose payment is postponed.

THE report of the Special Committee on the Decline of American Shipping is signed by all the members, but the minority of two, led by Mr. S. S. Cox, reserve the right to offer amendments which would alter very materially the character of the plan for the restoration of our shipping. All the members of the Committee are satisfied that the question is not simply one of opening our registration to ships of foreign build, and that we have been strangling our ocean marine by a network of national and state laws, well enough meant in their day, but now obsolete and a great deal worse than useless. With these the Committee propose heroic action. So far as they are the enactment of Congress, such as the laws levying consul's fees on our ships and giving excessive guarantees to our sailors, a simple repeal is proposed, other and more sensible guarantees being substituted for those abolished. And even as regards State or municipal taxation on shipping property, it is proposed to forbid the collection of such taxes. It is true that this raises the question as to the power of Congress to interfere in such matters. The Committee think Congress has the power. At any rate, legislation such as they propose would furnish a test of this by leaving recalcitrant States and cities to appeal to the Supreme Court.

But here the harmony of the Committee ends. The majority proposes to leave the old registration law just as it was enacted in WASHINGTON's time, and to put such an indirect bounty on ship-building as will foster the creation of a mercantile marine. They also propose that Congress shall pay upon American materials used in ship-building a drawback equal to the duties on the same materials if imported. The minority propose to throw open the registration to vessels of foreign build, so that Americans may not merely buy and own such vessels—as they now do—but may put them under the American flag and thus make our Government responsible for their safety from foreign enemies, pirates and the like. And they propose farther that foreign materials for use in building or repairing ships shall come in duty-free.

The first half of the proposal of the majority we approve for reasons often stated, and again indicated above. The second half seems to us well meant but clumsy. It rests upon the assumption that the foreign material, if free from duty, would cost just as much less than the American of the same grade, as is the amount of the duty imposed. This hardly ever is the case, and must not be assumed, especially by gentlemen who call themselves Protectionists. And it always is undesirable to have the Government enter into these calculations as to the amount and cost of materials employed in any transaction or operation. It would be far better to put a premium measured by the tonnage upon ships built of American materials in a manner satisfactory to Government inspectors, and also to remove the duties upon foreign materials.

THE export of our breadstuffs in the five months ending with November shows but a small increase upon the five corresponding months of last year, and that for the eleven months then ending shows a decrease of twenty-one per cent. On the other hand, our stocks are relatively large, and the hope of a vast European demand rests on no facts that we have been able to ascertain. It is true that imports are declining, and that one purchase of gold on American account was made in London two weeks ago. But altogether the prospect of a favorable balance of trade is not very bright.

The *Times*, of New York, found fault with Mr. NIMMO for mentioning a favorable balance of trade as a cause for national thanksgiving. That was when it was talking "political economy." When it begins to talk "business," it does just as Mr. NIMMO did. It speaks of the statistics of trade for October and November as "satisfactory beyond anything recently recorded." Why? Because in November in New York "the imports were only \$35,435,468, being under any one of the last seventeen months." "This is even more gratifying than the excess of imports over 1881, which was expected." All this is Protectionist talk. But the same inconsistency is seen in England. Mr. STANLEY JEVONS says the London money-articles are steeped in theories which English authorities on political economy denounce as the grossest and most antiquated heresies.

CONSIDERABLE interest attends upon the prospective meeting of the Pennsylvania Legislature, on the 2d of January, and especially upon the organization of the Senate. That body is composed of 30 Repub-

licans and 20 Democrats, but the course likely to be taken by the former is enough in doubt to be the subject of lively speculation. A majority of the thirty are classified as "machine" party men, who will desire to direct things in the old political grooves, and it is anticipated that if a caucus should be held they would place themselves in control by its dictum. A dozen, more or less, out of the thirty, are regarded as in accord with the popular demand for progressive and reformatory measures, and these gentlemen are looked to, with some anxiety and a certain measure of confidence, to justify this view. The Senate is now of particular importance to the Republican organization, because the House and the Executive Department are Democratic, and it is certainly plain enough that, with so narrow a footing on which to stand, the Republicans in that body ought to make the best showing possible—placing themselves directly in the front of the movement for economical, honest and progressive administration, and so proving that they are fit to be trusted by the people. The "machine" way of doing things is not popular,—to put the statement in the mildest possible way,—and this is a most unsuitable time in which to tie down the Senate with caucus cords or other like appliances.

A COMMITTEE of the New York Senate has been collecting evidence as to the operations of "corners" and other forms of speculation, with a view to seeing what can be done about it, just as Prince BISMARCK is proposing to levy a tax upon all Bourse operations. Three very eminent financiers—Mr. VANDERBILT, Mr. GOULD and Mr. RUFUS HATCH—gave evidence before the Committee, but did not tell the world much more than was known already. Mr. VANDERBILT, it is interesting to know, disapproves of "corners" in anything the railroads have to carry, as it retards business. What he thought of such "corners" as that made by his father in his own stocks, he did not say. Mr. GOULD thought "corners" and speculation generally a good and wholesome element of business, and would be sorry to see any interference with them. Mr. HATCH thought "corners" never "paid," and that speculative purchases were forms of gambling which should be punished with the State's prison; but he admitted his own guilt of both. Mr. BEECHER rushed to the rescue of the great Free Trade principle: "A man may do as he will with his own." While admitting his rather complete ignorance of the workings of the stock-market, he thought transactions in "futures" legitimate, and speculation not to be meddled with.

We fear that if things go on as they have been going, the meddling will come some day, and in a shape that our millionaires will not relish. When the management of any economic system, however excellent in itself, is divorced from moral considerations higher than law honesty, and is animated simply by individual greed, it soon becomes intolerable. The classes who have numbers on their side will not endure the oppressions it is sure to inflict, and they will destroy it, if not by means of law, then by the overthrow of law. Nothing but the infusion of a higher moral principle will save our industrial system from such a wreck as this in the time coming. No specific changes of method or law will do more than either help the higher force to permeate the system, or else put off for a little the evil day. The rule of GOULDS and VANDERBILTS will last no longer than did those of others who used a lawful power in a selfish and despotic manner.

GOVERNOR STEPHENS, of Georgia, begins his term of office very inauspiciously by the pardon of two murderers who had no claim on the executive clemency. One of the two was a man whom Mr. STEPHENS had defended on his trial. The other was a man named Cox, who killed another named ALSTON, upon a quarrel growing out of the unspeakable convict gang system, which still disgraces Georgia. If Mr. STEPHENS goes on in this way, he will rival Governor BLACKBURN, of Kentucky, who has pardoned fifteen hundred criminals and remitted fines to the amount of more than a million dollars during his tenure of office.

Under Mr. STEPHENS, Georgia should do something to retrieve her good name in the matter of those repudiated bonds, which he always has regarded as honestly contracted and as binding upon the State. There was not a single ground for their repudiation, except that they were contracted before the "white man's Government" was restored completely in Georgia.

MR. S. W. DORSEY seems to think that two Presidents of the United States have treated him as HENRY V. did JACK FALSTAFF. They were hand-in-glove with him until they were elected, and then they began to prosecute him for his villainies. Mr. DORSEY mistakes the role. The avalanche of letters which he has published in *The Herald* merely shows what everybody knew, that up to the time of the election of 1880, Mr. ex-Senator DORSEY still ranked as a Republican Stalwart leader, against whom some things were charged, but nothing was known definitely. As such a leader he was valued for his organizing gifts, his energy and sagacity, and perhaps for his command of money. But when the investigations of the Department of Justice proved Mr. DORSEY to be one of a set which had conspired to rob the country, both Mr. GARFIELD and Mr. ARTHUR turned their backs on him and left him to the course of the law. That they associated with him earlier, only shows that neither of them had FALSTAFF's instinct that enabled them to know a prince or a rogue even in disguise. Upon neither falls the disgrace of continuing the association after the man had appeared in his true colors, and this simple consideration makes an end to the whole attempt in some quarters to besmirch the memory of Mr. GARFIELD, on account of the DORSEY correspondence. We may simply suggest to every man who lives and moves in this world whether he is ready to stand or fall hereafter, according to the ultimate moral showing made by every one with whom he is thrown into relations of civility.

That the documents Mr. DORSEY gives the public are all genuine, we assume. Were it otherwise they would be called in question very promptly, as Mr. GARFIELD copied every letter he wrote, and kept every letter sent him. But we could not rest our confidence in the letters on the truthfulness of a man who pleads, by his lawyers, that his health quite unfits him to attend to a lawsuit involving his property, his reputation and his personal liberty, and yet keeps up a fusillade against the Government through the pages of our leading newspapers.

THE women of the city of Cleveland are agitated, very justly, by an ordinance passed by the Board of Health in that city. Cleveland is the second American city whose authorities propose to protect the public against the consequences of vicious indulgence by medical inspection of fallen women. The method has been in force in Paris and some other cities of the Continent; but, as a writer in *The Westminster Review* has shown, with no good results at all commensurate with its cost and the trouble involved, to say nothing of the sanction thus given by the authorities to the most antisocial of vices. Besides this practical failure, there is an argument against the method from its gross and palpable injustice. No city ever has proposed to subject to medical inspection the men who visit the places where such women are to be found. Yet it is from these men that women take this plague.

It would be well, at this season, for those interested in the solvency of banks and other institutions holding money in trust to inquire whether the cash is actually on hand, or whether some of its custodians have not carried it away to speculate in stocks, oil, grain, cotton or some other articles tangible or imaginary. On Wednesday of this week, the failure of the City Bank, at Rochester, N. Y., was announced, the President, a Mr. UPTON, having used \$350,000 of its funds in oil operations, and a banking-house in a neighboring town (the WILLIAM C. MOORE house, at Victor, N. Y.) put up its shutters on hearing the news. On the same day, the Second National Bank of Jefferson, Ohio, suspended because its cashier and his assistant had also been using the funds,—\$50,000 to \$75,000 this time,—in private speculations. It would be reflecting on a great number of very upright and honorable men to suggest the danger of a general rottenness in banks and like institutions, but the vastness of speculative operations, and the continual outcropping of such cases as those described, ought to make every stockholder persistently inquisitive as to the strict management of the institution in which he has shares. If he be a national bank stockholder, he may be called upon, some fine morning, not only to see his shares wiped out, but to meet a demand for the payment of an equal amount in new money to make up a deficiency.

THE new shift in the British Cabinet is of little public importance, except that Mr. GLADSTONE gives up the Exchequer to make room for

Earl DERBY, and that, in the move of three or four human pieces, Lord HARTINGTON succeeds Mr. CHILDERS in the War Department, where his natural and cultivated laziness will be taxed somewhat.

Mr. GLADSTONE times his withdrawal from the Exchequer so as to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of his entry into public life. The anniversary recalls many other events than Mr. GLADSTONE's election to the Parliament of 1832. He entered that Parliament the hope of the Tory party, pitted with PRAED against young Mr. MACAULAY as their literary champion. He was elected to oppose the extension of the suffrage to the English middle classes, and to keep the power in the hands of the aristocracy. Neither then nor at any subsequent time did he do anything to extend the suffrage. Yet he has made himself the idol of those whose political emancipation he opposed, and the *bête noir* of his early friends. From the one party to the other he has been carried by his economic convictions mainly, and without abandoning or altering those religious views which placed him originally among the Tories.

LORD DERBY enters the Cabinet with a curious confession of disbelief in that Irish policy to which MR. GLADSTONE and his associates have sacrificed so much. He does not believe that any land bill will effect the permanent prosperity of the Irish people. He believes that the recent land bill may alleviate their miseries for a few years, but in the long run they will be as ill off as before, and as dependent upon their landlords. He thinks the only remedy is a wholesale emigration to America and the colonies, and that the Government might spend millions to good purpose in promoting it. Yet Lord DERBY cannot say that Ireland is overpopulated; she has but 169 people to the square mile, which is below the European average. But Ireland is a country which has to raise food (1) to feed her people; (2) to pay her rents to resident and absentee landlords; and (3) to purchase every necessary article besides food from foreign manufacturers. In such a country the pressure of population upon subsistence must be constant, and even emigration can only aggravate it by removing the most hopeful and energetic part of the population. The one remedy for Irish evils is the development of a manufacturing industry at home.

THERE are two points which indicate storm in Europe. One is between Germany and Russia. Prince BISMARCK evidently clings closely to the dual alliance with Austria, a triple imperial alliance having been rendered impossible since Austria showed her purpose to advance her frontier southward at the expense of Slavic autonomy. As a consequence, Russia is at outs with Germany, and the sensational news-mongers exaggerate the prospects of a collision by despatches and editorials, which have some truth behind them, although the best informed persons seem to treat them as *canards*.

The other is between France and England. France evidently means to have her full half in Egypt, and is all the more disposed to do so, since England hampers her in Madagascar. A fierce scolding-match goes on between the London and the Paris newspapers. The French remind England that her petty army is by no means equal to the task of defending her immense possessions, and that an outbreak of war would put her at the mercy of the great armies of the Continent. The English retort that they alone have a first-class navy, which could sweep the French out of all the seas and absorb all their outlying possessions as easily as in the wars with "Boney." So far, the English seem to have the best of it, and France will have to content herself with Tunis and the Congo acquisitions.

The quarrel is useful as helping the English to decide to minimize their interferences in Egypt. If France must have half, the best way is to reduce the whole to as nearly a cipher as may be.

[See News Summary, page 174.]

THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

"HE shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," sang the old Hebrew prophets, of the coming Deliverer before whose feet earth's moral deserts were to burst into blossoming fragrance. And very beautifully the prophecy is fulfilled for us in the annual festival which reminds us of the birth of Him who in the synagogue of Nazareth claimed these words as spoken of Himself. It is the children's time of year. The fact is written in broad characters, on the streets

and in the stores. Even the gifts for the grown-up people are meant for the child that still lingers in the adult breast, and that still is capable of the simple, heartfelt joy of childhood. Christmas comes to renew our youth to us; to thaw us for a little out of the hard unchild-like worldliness of our greed and our calculations; to remind us that there is in life such a thing as giving and getting without earning. Just because it is the children's time, when we all are meant to be children once more, it is the time of gifts. The child earns nothing. He lives in simple and trusting dependence upon those who care for his wants. He pays for all by his joyfulness and his content. And in the sight of ONE we are all children, taking at His hand what we never can earn, getting the grandest things of our lives for nothing, and paying for them merely by delight in them and by our thankfulness. In the world, as world, it is not so.

At the Devil's booth are all things sold,
Each ounce of dross costs its ounce of gold;
For a cap and bells our lives we pay—
Baubles we earn with a whole soul's tasking;
'Tis heaven alone that's given away;
'Tis only GOD may be had for the asking.

And so all deep sense of religion rests on a sense of GOD as the friendly Giver of good.

The eyes of all wait upon Thee,
And Thou givest them their meat in due season;
Thou openest Thy hand
And satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

So the Hebrew psalmist sang, and so all authentic gospels teach, declaring that not earning but giving is the order of spiritual communication, and that the man who thinks himself too rich or too lofty for gifts, never can receive any of the highest things, which are the soul's best privilege. The routine and the hurry of the year tends to dim this to our perception. But Christmas comes to awaken us again to the sense of it, as was indeed the tendency of many festivals in religions of a lower type. We are kept in our earthly relations very much upon the level of merit and desert. It is unavoidable and even desirable that it should be so. It is a part of the drill and discipline of what may be called the prudential virtues. It helps to eliminate Skimpolism out of social relations. But after all it tends to blunt the perception of the highest relations, and of that great truth which TENNYSON sings:

Merit lives from man to man,
But not from man, O Lord, to Thee.

And Christmas serves this end better than any other festival, because its whole meaning is derived from the great Christmas Gift of Bethlehem. "GOD so loved the world that He gave His Son." Interpret the words by the terms of any theology you please, so that you do not take all the meaning out of them, and you will get at the heart of Christmas. It was a strange gift. It did not reflect, as do our gifts, the giver's sense of the tastes and desires and preferences of the recipients. Nobody wanted the little child, for whom the inn at Bethlehem had no room. The least and the most religious of the time united in thinking the gift of no worth or significance. But the gift showed that GOD felt and knew just what the world needed, and cared little in comparison for what it really wanted. It was a weary, moth-eaten world, with hope and enthusiasm all died out of it. Its worldliness, its hard, greedy calculations, had come to give shape and color even to its religious aspirations. It hoped for nothing, or only for the things that would be its hurt. And into the midst of this world came ONE with the heart of a little child, with the child's glad confidence in the Father's love and care, ready to take all that life sent as coming from that Father, ready even for the cross if it were the Father's will. And all through the brief but unspeakably fruitful life, this child-likeness was a dominant trait. JESUS OF NAZARETH grew in wisdom and in stature; learnt all the lessons that really lie in experience of the world; saw farther than other men into the evil and the darkness in society and in the hearts of men. But with all His learning, He never lost or forgot anything that makes childhood precious, and when He proclaimed a new kingdom, or order of life, for men, He insisted on this as a central principle. He said that men must be born over again, to regain their childhood, and that whosoever could not become a child again, could not enter into this kingdom.

Here we think lies one secret of His wonderful power in the world—the power that has spread and multiplied while that of other men has declined and vanished. The sight of that face has been a glory to transform the lives and the fellowships of men, because no trace of weariness or worldliness, whatever there may be of sorrow and of pain, lies upon its lineaments. In it lies the eternal freshness of perpetual youth,—the dream of the old mythologists for the BALDERS and their APOLLOS realized in the verity of history. In Him lies the freshening of our hopes, the lightening of our burdens, the alleviation of our sorrows. And the wisest and best of the nations are gathering, therefore, in pious memories around the cradle of the Christ-Child of Bethlehem.

STUMBLING-BLOCKS IN THE PATH.

IT is probable that Congress could not have done better than take the usual holiday recess—that any attempt to hold sessions in holiday week would have been made unsuccessful by absentees. The practice of making the ten days that include Christmas and New Year's a festival season has become so thoroughly settled and universally adopted among the dwellers in cities that it is substantially beyond control, and such a body as Congress, with its membership intimately reached by all social customs and observances, would find it very hard to go directly against the usage.

None the less, however, the Republican members of the two Houses must see that this is a lapse. There was a strong, and we think sincere, effort to keep at work, except during short recesses for each of the two chief holidays, and the vote in the House to this effect, on Monday, reversed by that of Tuesday, showed that the Republicans generally appreciated the great need of putting every day to good use, since the time of the session is necessarily so limited; while it showed, on the other hand, the inclination, if not the desire, on the part of the Democratic representatives to let the time go by with no more result than could be conveniently and easily secured. Obviously, it is as little to the advantage of the Democrats as it is much to that of the Republicans, that a good record should be made by this session of Congress, and it must not be expected that the Democratic members will rise so far above the considerations of party benefit as to help their opponents to reestablish themselves in public confidence by vigorous and abundant good work. Whatever measure of success the Republican members achieve must be the outcome of their own efforts and upon their own merits. If they are saved at all, they must save themselves.

It is to be observed, too, that there are some other indications of forces opposing the earnest purposes of diligence that were so much manifested at the opening of the session. It is intimated that the repeal of the internal tax excess will be antagonized by schemes to increase the pension expenditure, and that "the soldier element" is to be organized in opposition to any diminution of the taxes—upon the theory that the more money there is gathered into the Treasury the easier it will be to draw large sums out of it. Such an intimation is not without its serious side; a movement of the kind described, even if organized and directed by the Washington ring of pension agents, who have done so much to feather their own nests and to add to the national expenditures, might place an impediment in the way of the proper reconstruction of the tax system, and add another weight to those which the Republicans have been carrying. Nothing is more certain than that a failure at this session to abolish the war taxes, or to readjust them in the interest of State relief, would do a fatal mischief to Republican prestige, and if it be true that any serious effort is to be made to prevent such legislation, the news must be regarded as an important feature in the situation.

We regard, also, as a fact not encouraging, but the contrary, the appearance of Republican opposition in the Senate to the reform of the civil service. It may be fit enough for Mr. BROWN to attack the pending bill, and for Mr. VOORHEES to ridicule it,—these gentlemen probably feel that they are safe as to the opinions of their constituents, and that whatever they contribute to impede Republican progress is an unquestionable partisan gain. But we do not see any such excuse in the case of the Kansas Senators, Messrs. INGALLS and PLUMB, who are reported as also among the opponents of this reform. These gentlemen are not, probably, wiser than their generation, nor are they so safely settled upon the Republican vote of the State of Kansas as to be insured

against all accidents. Even Kansas sometimes is shaken, as was shown but a few weeks ago, and there cannot be entire immunity from risk, we should say, in doing for the people of that State what gives the people of so many other States the highest displeasure.

It is by no means clear, even from these facts, that there is to be a failure by this session to achieve good results. We do not cite them as obliging such a conclusion. But they are notable on the surface at this moment, and they should receive attention. The public duty of "pressure" upon Congress, to which we had occasion to refer a little while ago, remains one of the very highest importance. The attempt to do good work and do it with diligence, will be opposed openly, and contemned secretly. It will be attacked from some quarters, ridiculed from others, and betrayed, if possible, from still others. It must have every aid, every support, every encouragement. So far, the time has not been wasted, and, as we have said, the holiday recess might as well be taken openly as to be frittered away in the fruitless and shallow pretense of holding sessions; but in reality, we have, up to this time, no more than the promise of a possibly useful session. Fulfilment is yet to be witnessed.

WEEKLY NOTES.

ONE more suit has been brought against the Harmony Society, located at Economy, near Pittsburg. Five such suits—the first in 1821, the last in 1856—have been brought by seceding members of the Society to recover their share of its property, or the wages of their labor during the period of their membership. But whenever the Society showed that the plaintiff had signed the articles of association he was non-suited, both in the State Courts, and in one case before the Supreme Court of the United States. In the case of PETER SCHREIBER vs. the Harmony Society (WATTS's "Reports" V. 360-4) it was decided by our Supreme Court that "an association by which each surrendered his property into one common stock, for the mutual benefit of all, during their joint lives, with the right of survivorship, reserving to each the privilege to secede at any time during his life, is not prohibited by law. And that right of secession is not transmissible to the personal representative of the party to such agreement, so as to enable him to recover the stock of his intestate, so put into the common stock." And that "a member of a religious society cannot avoid [*i. e.*, show to be void] a contract with it on the basis of its peculiar faith, by setting up the supposed extravagance of its doctrines as a proof that he was entrapped."

These decisions seem to cover the present case. Mr. ELIAS SPIEDEL claims on the ground that his parents contributed a thousand dollars to the common stock in 1805, when the society was organized in Butler County, by GEORGE RAPP, and that Mr. RAPP exercised an undue influence over the minds of his followers. He puts the property of the society at eight millions, although it certainly is not a quarter so much. Its members are disciples of JAKOB BÖHME, and are celibates. The society is dying out for want of new members, and its property will fall to the commonwealth before the century is out, unless some other disposal is made of it in the few years that remain before the last of Mr. RAPP's associates close their days.

THE despatch from London announcing that a cheap method had been discovered for extracting aluminium from its ores, seems to show that metallurgical chemistry has solved one of the three great industrial problems which the progress of applied science has propounded. The other two are the extraction of gold from its sulphites and the cheapening of sulphuric acid. Every clay bank is a mine of aluminium, a metal weighing one-fourth as much as silver, as ductile as iron and nearly as bright as silver, and capable of a thousand uses where strength and lightness are both desirable. It is true that the metal is highly sensitive to acids. An aluminium spoon left in a pickle jar would disappear in a night. It is also true that, like pewter, it becomes dull in color with exposure to the air, and has a slightly unpleasant odor when rubbed with the finger. But with all these drawbacks, it is destined to play a great part in the arts, as soon as its separation from silica and oxygen are cheapened enough to bring it into common use.

MR. VYNER, an English gentleman of large fortune, died lately. He was of a family which seems fated to disappear. One of his brothers was killed by Greek brigands, in company with Mr. HERBERT. Another was drowned whilst hunting, Sir CHARLES SLINGBY, the last of a very long line, sharing his fate. Another brother, in his day the youngest member of the House of Commons, died ere he was thirty. Of his two sisters, the Marchioness of NORTHAMPTON died childless, and the Marchioness of RIPON, wife of the Viceroy of India, has but one child unmarried. But one VYNER brother remains, married but childless. Their mother was co-heiress of the late Earl DE GREY, and Mr. VYNER inherited her fine Yorkshire home, Newby near Ripon. The

VYNERs were greatly to the fore *temp.* CHARLES II., when Sir ROBERT VYNER, repeatedly alluded to by PEPYS, was Lord Mayor of London and King's goldsmith. CHARLES owed him vast sums, which, it is scarcely necessary to say, he never got. VYNER, in the exuberance of his loyalty, presented an equestrian statue of CHARLES to the city. This statue was originally intended to represent the King of Poland, but was left on the maker's hands, so the Poland was turned into a Briton, and the Turk, ridden down beneath, into CROMWELL. Unfortunately, the turban, by an oversight carelessly left on the Turk, remained in evidence. When, in 1758, the statue was pulled down (to make way for the present Mansion House), a VYNER applied for and obtained it. ADDISON's *Spectator* tells how, when CHARLES was dining with Lord Mayor VYNER, the latter royally drunk, "Catching the King fast by the hand, said, 'Sir, you shall stay and take t'other bottle.' The King looked kindly at him, and, with a smile and graceful air (for I saw him at the time, and do now) repeated this line of the old song:

'He that's drunk is as great as a king'—

and immediately turned back and complied."

In *Tail's Edinburgh Magazine*, a publication of high standing, now we believe extinct, is an article, published in 1839, "By a Guernsey Correspondent," which presages in a remarkable degree the policy adopted by Mr. GLADSTONE towards Ireland to-day. "The position," says the writer, "we shall endeavor to establish in this article, is that the system of landed tenure which obtains in Ireland is the veritable cause of all its evils, moral, social, political and commercial, and that the remedy is to be found in the introduction of the old Norman tenure as it exists to this day in the islands of Guernsey and Jersey. We admit that the change would be most sweeping, but that is no argument against its usefulness."

THE GYPSIES.

PERHAPS few, among general readers, know of the great interest to be found in the study of the history of this singular people, who form so distinct an element in every country in which they abide, —like alien wanderers on the shores of the Nile, the banks of the Thames and on the broad fields of our Western land.

America seems to afford to the Gypsy a specially congenial home. A continent over which to roam unmolested is indeed a boon to him. Occasionally we find Gypsies making use of the land, as in Ohio, where, in the neighborhood of Dayton, they own large tracts and raise much fine stock, especially horses, many of which they sell during their winter wanderings in the South. They seem to be accounted good neighbors by the people of Dayton, who say they are quite free from the predatory habits usually ascribed to their tribes. To the Dayton people, a visit from the Gypsies is an object of interested curiosity, crowds gather about them as they speed through the town with their gaily caparisoned horses, reminding one of the flight of a Baltimore Oriole through a flock of sparrows.

A few years since, Dayton became a centre of interest to the Gypsy folk all over our country and in Canada. They assembled in troops to do honor to the funeral obsequies of Matilda, wife of Levi Stanley. The Stanleys, or Beshaleys, are a large tribe among the Gypsies. They came from England in 1856. On this occasion, Dayton was reinforced by strangers from a dozen neighboring counties, a rough, excitable crowd, in great number, the surging and scrouging of which is described by an eye-witness as something not easily to be forgotten. He was much impressed by the conduct of the Gypsies, as they stood, dignified, calm and patient, and bore the pressure with admirable coolness, as well as with what he heard of them from the people of Dayton. He seems, however, not to have been aware that a Gypsy likes nothing better than to impose on the credulity of a romance-loving questioner, since his account of their answers to his questions is highly amusing to those who know the real facts; as, for instance, that Matilda and Levi were their King and Queen, whereas any two prominent Gypsies would be selected by them to play that part in their story to create an interest and "draw custom." Also their pretended revelation of a deep secret concerning the pattered, the mark by which Gypsies show that they have passed over a road, as a sign to their comrades, which is made in different ways, one of these they showed him as the only way in existence of making a pattered. The secret, however, was a *véritable secret de Polichinelle*—"a Punchinello's secret known to all," while there are almost as many kinds of pattered as there are Gypsies.

Also professing great interest in their own early history, etc., for which they care absolutely nothing,—doubtless quite delighted with the effect of their confidential communications on the questioning stranger, who so evidently received them as unquestionable truth. Their romance concerning "Queen" Matilda would have done credit to Sir Walter Scott. The real truth seems to have been that this plain, hardy old woman was a person of keen insight, shrewd common-sense, and large generosity; that she was of great use in advancing the interests of her people, and had gained the respect of her "Gentle" neighbors by her good qualities and uncommon ability.

Even in his worst days,—the times of proscription, when in the old world the Gypsy was banished and even hunted like a wild beast as mischievous to communities, "more outcast and proscribed than Moor or Jew,"—he still preserved certain traits of nobility and dignity,—and the world will not forget that it is to one of his race that it owes an English classic—John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." Apropos of John Bunyan, a certain gentleman in England—or rather several of them—have taken very great pains to prove that he was *not* a Gypsy; as if they felt keenly that no amount of Methodist Christianity would ever wash the wickedness out of a Romany chaf, and as if the blood were a disgrace to their faith. And what have they proved? Only that certain of Bunyan's ancestors were settled house-dwellers. What they have *not* disproved is that Bunyan distinctly believed that he and his family were *not* of English blood, and that he in consequence asked his father if they were not Jews of the lost ten tribes. This is the very question which was once put to Mr. Leland by a Gypsy tinker. And they have most unaccountably not disproved the fact that even thirty years ago a tinker in Great Britain without Romany blood was as rare as a white crow.

During the last century, this proscription of Gypsies has become a thing of the past, and much interest has been called forth on the subject by their history and their language by the researches of learned men. Their origin, of great antiquity, can only be traced through the formation of their language, which is closely allied to that of a portion of the people of India. But one of the tribes of India has been noted as a colonizing race, the Jats. It is believed that some of these, expelled from Sinde by the victories of Mahmoud in 1025, travelled slowly westward and reached Europe in the thirteenth century. They have been known in different countries by more names than would fill a volume; among the most common of these are Zingaro Roma. Sinde is said to be used in Germany.

At the present time new attention is being called to the Gypsy race by the fresh and racy volume called "The Gypsies," by Charles G. Leland, the "Romany Rye," who has so delightful a manner of imparting his large stores of information that it would seem as though the coldest-hearted could not fail to catch his enthusiasm and rise from reading his book with a longing to pursue the subject by a careful study of all his previous works upon the Gypsies and their language. These, we hope, will soon become familiar to the general reader, to whom, from the fact of their having been published in England, they have not been as accessible as this later volume published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. In this book he brings us into the true life of the Gypsies of England, America, Wales, Austria and the East, with a keen artistic perception of every point of interest and a sympathetic comprehension of the people, which show the hand of a master.

"Why a certain interest in Gypsies has sprung up of late is not hard to understand. Since a great school of novelists and others has arisen, devoting themselves on principle to depicting only the average—the daily life of very daily, all-alike people with their usual dinners and common-place interminable flirtations; in short, since not man, but the petty Philistine has become the measure of things and 'the young gent at Howell and James'—as *Punch* described him forty years ago—has attained an awful significance, even a Gypsy blackguard or horse-thief is becoming refreshing." This sentence is from an unpublished bit of pen-work by Mr. Leland, and it expresses the feeling of many to whom the sardine—all alike and all tightly packed away from the sight—is not the ideal fish. We all like something fresher. K. M. H.

ART.

MR. HERKOMER AS HIS OWN CRITIC.*

THAT most genial of scholars and poets, who has been retained as the representative of the United States at the Court of St. James, to the great indignation of those patriots who delight in hand-to-hand combats with the British lion at the distance of three thousand miles, wrote, some years ago, an essay upon "a certain condescension in foreigners," wherein he commented on that tendency of the European mind to take a view of us, which is at once æsthetic and utilitarian,—æsthetic in its philosophic scorn of our barbarian vulgarity, and utilitarian in its stern purpose to tell us, if only we will pay liberally for the telling, that which, if not always a disagreeable truth, is sure to be more disagreeable than a truth. Of course, every one who has seen much of the better class of foreigners who visit this country, has had the good fortune to meet many, both men and women, whom it is, in the highest sense of the word, a pleasure and a privilege to meet and to know. It is not of such people that Mr. Lowell wrote. Nor do we now refer to them. Nor have we in mind those other foreign invaders whose sense of courtesy and refinement varies with the change of latitude and longitude, and who, when they depart from Paris, Vienna, or London for a trans-Atlantic voyage, leave behind them in safe keeping their morals and their manners, lest those precious articles may, by exposure to the rude air of democracy, lose that fine polish, which, if we are to believe

* Descriptive Catalogue of the Portraits, Etchings and Engravings by Hubert Herkomer, A. R. A., exhibited at M. Knoedler's Gallery, New York, November 25, 1882.

Mr. Henry James, Jr., and the writers of his school, finds its full development only under European influences. It has been the fate of all of us to meet visitors of that type. One day, it is a ducal scion, who, as Mr. Lowell tells us, wears a secession badge at a public entertainment in New York. Another day, it is an eminent historian, who causes his entertainers to wonder whether there can possibly be any necessary connection between the development of the intellect and the blunting of those finer feelings that mark the gentleman. Many other illustrations drawn from personal experiences and founded in fact will readily occur to every reader. But at this time we speak only of those foreign missionaries and mercenaries, who come to our shores as modern Pizarros, ostensibly and ostentatiously professing to convert us to the true faith of an artificial and unreal culture, but in reality and in sober earnest seeking for the golden rewards which rumor has told them may be gained by anyone who dazzles our savage simplicity with glass beads and tinsel, if only they be stamped as of European manufacture.

In this spirit, Mr. Hubert Herkomer has come, by example and by precept to teach us art. Of his collection of paintings, etchings and engravings we shall say nothing. There is much in them to give real pleasure to those who see and study them. Probably most people will think that his portrait of Ruskin is his best work, and that its breadth of treatment and harmony of color establishes Mr. Herkomer's claim to high artistic rank. Certainly his etchings and engravings are inferior, both in conception and execution, to his work in colors. For him etching is undoubtedly one of "the lesser arts" and his practice in it has evidently been done, as he advises others to do it, "between times." But it is with Mr. Herkomer as a writer and a teacher, that we now have to do, for he has issued a descriptive catalogue of his art work now on exhibition in New York. In his first sentence, he gives as the motive of his publication, the statement that "the art-loving public wants to know what a painter has to say about his own work." It is not for us to say whether this reason be in general well founded, but, if any such desire does exist with regard to Mr. Herkomer's work, he has certainly, in the publication which is the subject of this notice, gratified it with great frankness and candor. He says, as to his general method, "I have made it a rule never to hesitate before difficulties when a good subject was within my reach," which reminds us of a photographic artist, who, travelling in Arabia, arrested the charge of a Sheik and his robber band by levelling a camera at them, and had the satisfaction not only of putting to flight the marauders, but of adding to his collection an instantaneous photograph, whose subjects had not attempted to gratify the usual photographer's injunction to "look pleasant." So we can picture to ourselves Mr. Herkomer wandering through our American desert, pencil in hand, and jotting in his note-book the aborigines and the buffaloes, which the average Englishman expects to encounter whenever he wanders far from Broadway, or loses the roar of the cataract of Niagara. Mr. Herkomer informs us that "the general public knows next to nothing of the true merits and demerits of etching," and he kindly enlightens our darkness by telling us that a mystery has been thrown over this art, but he neither shows us the mystery nor clears it away. He criticises his etchings as unreservedly, and in as complimentary a way as if some one else had done them. From fear that we should regard etching No. 2 as the work of his maturity or should value it as commonplace but successful, he explains that it is only "another young and bold attempt to do something unusual." No. 6 he finds "not altogether an unsuccessful attempt." No. 7 he did in seven days in the spring of '77, an achievement of which those modern magicians, the seventh sons of seventh sons, might well be proud. Indeed, the number seven seems to possess a fascination for Mr. Herkomer, for he mentions incidentally that he once painted a water-color seven feet long. No. 10, he tells us, is "probably the most popular plate an etcher can boast of," but he modestly qualifies that statement of fact, by presuming that that popularity is due "more to the subject than to the treatment." No. 14, is his "best specimen of head etching," and presents "the happiest mixture of dry point with the bitten line." As to No. 47 he says, "I must add that I cannot detect the slightest difference in artistic sensation when copying my own work or that of another man." He tells us also of Richter, whose "mind is so stored with music of all the composers, that he finds his own efforts at composing crippled by his marvellous memory of other men's work." How true to nature these profound remarks are. How often it happens to writers and speakers, and even to after-dinner raconteurs, that without the slightest appreciable artistic regret, or even conscientious qualm, they present as their own the carefully elaborated impromptus of some other man, and how rare it is that their truthful memory cripples their inventive efforts. As to No. 46, "The Master of Trinity," Mr. Herkomer says, with characteristic diffidence, "this must be classed with the best of my mezzotint work up to this period," but to No. 48, the last in his catalogue, he generously accords even higher praise, for he fondly says that this he would like "to place above the 'Master of Trinity' for solidity of work and largeness of manner." We think that our extracts have shown that Mr. Herkomer's literary work is, like his No. 48, remarkable, if not for "solidity," yet certainly for "largeness of manner." Nor are Mr. Herkomer's brief biographical and critical notices of his subjects unworthy of remark.

In order to show us what Richter was, he tells us what Schumann was not. The latter appears to Mr. Herkomer to have been, as the conductor of an orchestra, a leader who followed, and the former a follower who led. Joachim has a nature "mellow and soft," with an incapacity to say "a harsh word" and an inevitable tendency to "damp the young enthusiast." So also Archibald Forbes seems to be similarly composed of contradictory elements, for his conversation, "though labored, was always terse and to the point, with much humor." Mr. Herkomer tells us also, that Mr. Forbes's "face, when in repose, becomes sometimes perfectly ferocious," but that we can understand, for the artist critic tells us that Mr. Forbes is "harsh and impatient with those who are bores," and it is quite possible that Mr. Herkomer talked to him as he has written for us.

But let us be thankful that Mr. Herkomer has not only kindly permitted us to gaze upon his pictures and his etchings, but also that, with true foreign condescension, he has pointed out to us exactly how much, and for what great merits, we may admire his work.

SCIENCE.

THE LIFE OF A SPHERE.

A FEW weeks ago, in the pages of THE AMERICAN, the writer reviewed the conditions of molecular life, and the motions and mechanics of the immeasurably minute, as laid bare by the analytic methods of modern science. To complete the picture there presented, a similar consideration of the immeasurably large seems desirable "the Life of a Molecule" being placed in contrast with "the Life of a Sphere." This latter subject, however, is one of vast dimensions, and will be considered here only in relation to spherical motions, and the degree of occupancy of space by matter.

There are, for instance, very vague conceptions entertained in respect to the motions of the earth through space. Everybody of ordinary education knows that the earth revolves on its axis once in twenty-four hours, and rotates around the sun once every year; yet very few comprehend the really stupendous nature of the motions here involved. If we stroll along the street at the rate of a step per second, it may seem like a slow progress, and yet the speed of the famous seven-league boots hardly surpassed the rate at which we are really going. For every such step really takes us eighteen miles forward in space. Between the lift and fall of the foot, we shoot forward this great distance, and, in ordinary breathing, each successive breath is taken fifty miles away from the locality of the last. Finally, in the short period in which the second hand of a watch completes one revolution, and marks a minute gone, we dart eleven hundred miles through space, so that a distance equal to the noted "tour of the earth in eighty days" is travelled by every one of us in every twenty-three minutes of our lives. This, thus barely presented, seems incredible, yet it declares nothing more than is involved in the annual revolution of the earth around the sun. We are, in reality, shooting constantly in three separate directions through space, at speeds to which that of the cannon-ball is but a snail's pace. In one direction, we are moving forward at a rate of sixteen miles per minute. In a second direction, we far surpass this speed, and dart forward three hundred miles per minute. But the third line of motion is at the extraordinary rapidity above mentioned, of eleven hundred miles per minute. And yet the railroad train which bears us at this rate through space moves with such utter smoothness that we find it impossible to realize that there has been any change of place.

The first of these motions is that of the earth on its axis. The second is that of the movement of the whole solar system through space, towards the fixed stars. The third is that of the revolution of the earth around the sun, which carries us onward nearly six hundred millions of miles every year. It must be remembered, however, that our realization of motion depends upon two things, the degree of roughness of transit, and the seemingly reverse motion of the objects we pass in our journey. If a railroad train could be made to run with perfect smoothness, we could discover our motion only by the seeming reverse motion of trees, hills and houses which we pass. Such is the case with the motion of the earth. It is too smooth to be directly discoverable, and can only be traced through the apparently reverse motions of the surrounding spheres. To one travelling in a balloon, or in a smooth-gliding ship, it seems to be the earth that is really moving, and it took men long ages to discover that it was not the stars that were moving around a motionless earth. It was only when they came to realize the distances of these stars, and their sizes as compared with the earth, that it became absurd to believe that the multitudes of mighty suns which stud the heavens were daily trooping around this little spot of matter as their centre, and that our great solar sphere was revolving, like an obedient slave, around one of the smallest of its planets. The idea once gained, that it was the earth to whose real motion all these seeming motions were due, the question became immensely simplified. The trees, rocks and habitations were apparently darting backward, merely because we were darting forward, and by tracing their apparent motions the speed and direction of our real motion became evident.

But to the safety of a body moving with such speed one thing is necessary,—the track must be kept clear. Each sphere must have its

own "right of way," for the meeting with an obstruction would prove a very serious affair. Fortunately, the danger of collision is very slight. It may occasionally occur; but while molecules collide myriads of times per second, myriads of years must pass between every two collisions of spheres.

In fact, the free path of a sphere is something stupendous. The earth and its sister planets are large bodies only as compared with us, their observers. As compared with the dimensions of the space through which they move they are but as grains of sand in a Sahara. If we take the limits of our solar system alone, the open space is immensely greater in extent than the planets, each of which compares to it as a tossing ship to the wide Atlantic on whose central waters it floats. The sun and all its planets combined would make a mass of less than a million miles diameter. Yet the diameter of the solar system is 5,600,000,000 miles, a space sufficient to contain 200,000,000,000 of such spheres. Of a mass made up of the planets alone it would contain 1,000 times as many more.

This may give some slight conception of the real dimensions of inter-planetary space, but it really represents a mere atom of the total space of the universe. The nightly sky, studded with its myriads of stars, may yield the idea that these stars bear some respectable relation in volume to the space in which they float. But when we look at the figures of astronomical measurement, we find that each is, indeed, but as a tiny boat afloat in an ocean.

The nearest of the fixed stars is twenty trillions (20,000,000,000,000) of miles distant from us. The next in distance is four times farther removed. If we attempt to fix an average distance for the surrounding group of fixed stars nearest our system, we could not safely give it a radius of less than four hundred trillions of miles. Yet what does this involve? Light, which reaches us from the sun in eight and a half minutes, would take seventy years in its journey across this vast domain of space. If the volume of space included within our solar system were occupied with one huge sphere of 5,600,000,000 miles diameter, even such a mighty mass would be but as a floating feather in the marvellous spread of empty space surrounding. This space would contain twenty-seven hundred trillions of such spheres, and would contain the material contents of our solar system a number of times indicated by the figure 5, with twenty-two ciphers annexed.

And yet this brings us but upon the threshold of the universe. In a journey outward to such a distance we would reach but a few of the countless suns which glow like jewels in the midnight skies, reduced to mere points of light by their immeasurable distance. Outward still interminably stretch new suns, throughout a universe of illimitable extent. In the richest parts of the milky way, 5,000 stars have been counted within the space of one square degree. As our telescopes increase in power, new multitudes of solar spheres flash into light, often so densely massed that a spot invisible to the naked eye opens out under the telescope into a crowded group of stars. If the distances between these stars bear any relation to that between our sun and its nearest neighbor, the imagination must fall back appalled before the conception of the vastness of their containing space. Yet only the mind of a child could conclude that our telescopes have gauged the universe. The most distant sphere reached by the searching tube is perhaps still only on the threshold of a universe which knows no limits, but stretches over onward in boundless extent.

Thus modern science opens out to us two wonderful fields of space, the region of the illimitably small, and that of the illimitably large. We stand between two extraordinary worlds, each far beyond our conception. In vain we seek to gauge the minute. Billions of molecules inhabit the smallest space visible to our eyes, even when aided by the most powerful microscopes. Equally in vain we seek to gauge the vast. Billions of suns stretch out beyond the reach of our most powerful telescopes. We stand amazed between the microcosm and the macrocosm, the two grand ultimates of nature. Innumerable as are the atoms of matter which go to make up the human body, equally innumerable may be the multitudes of spheres which go to make up the universe, and man may stand, in this sense, midway between the kingdoms of the great and the small, striving vainly to gain an adequate conception of either.

One further question arises: Are these vast interstellar spaces really uninhabited, mere empty voids to serve as pathways for the endlessly flying suns? This question we can readily answer in the negative. For out of space occasionally a stranger sphere plunges unannounced into our solar system, and darts around the sun in the shining shape of a comet, a messenger from untold worlds afar. How many such wandering bodies roam in the depths of space no one can estimate. Kepler says of them that they are like the fishes of the sea in multitude. Occasionally one of them, like the drawn sword of the heavens which now gleams in our midnight skies, becomes bound by the chains of gravity to our solar system; but many more dart away, after a brief visit, and start, like "Wandering Jews" of the universe, on a journey of millions of years in length toward the realm of some neighboring sun.

In addition to these cometary masses, an extraordinary number of smaller bodies inhabit space, darting in every direction in their revolutions around the sun. They are, perhaps, the remnants of older, dis-

integrated comets. The earth traverses but a narrow line of space, yet the line is crossed by vast multitudes of meteoric bodies, so numerous that Professor Newcomb estimates those which enter the earth's atmosphere at four hundred millions every twenty-four hours. How thickly then must space be peopled with matter; and yet each such minor mass has a broad field of free space in which to move.

These meteoric bodies, moving at a very rapid speed, incessantly bombard the earth. But for the safety-cushion of the atmosphere, no life could exist, for the pistol- and cannon-balls of the heavens would constantly rain upon the earth's surface, in such numbers that no living thing could escape them. Fortunately, but few of them are able to penetrate the air. Their rapid motion causes an intense friction, great heat is evolved, a flash of light breaks out upon the sky, and the overheated mass is consumed, its ashes gradually settling down to the earth as cosmic dust. Occasionally a larger mass escapes this fate, and plunges upon the earth, with only its outer coating singed in its passage through the air. Strangely enough, we find these masses to be composed only of materials similar to those of the earth's surface, iron being their principal substance. These visitants yield us interesting glimpses of the constitution of the universe, their story being in strict accordance with that more recently told by Spectrum Analysis, by whose aid we are able to discover the composition of the most distant visible sun.

Another result of this incessant fall of meteors has been conceived. The sun is the centre of their motions, and it is probable that they dart into the solar atmosphere in numbers very greatly exceeding those which touch upon the earth. Each flashes into combustion by its friction with the solar atmosphere, or becomes greatly heated by its contact with the sun's surface, and the heat thus produced is radiated outward as part of the sun's radiant beams. It was, not many years ago, thought possible that all the sun's heat thus originated, and that the solar sphere acted as a great frictional furnace, burning up the loose combustibles of space, and emitting heat in accordance with the quantity of fuel thus received. Scientists, however, are now satisfied that the meteoric rain must be far insufficient to account for the intensity of the solar radiations. Solar contraction is considered to be the main source of the heat emission, though it must undoubtedly receive considerable aid from meteoric falls.

Such are some few of the considerations which crowd upon us when we attempt to review the marvellous facts of astronomical science. We have but barely touched upon the subject, which is replete with wonders. If, however, we have given some faint conception of the real immensity of space, and of the distance relations of its material contents, our object has been accomplished.

CHARLES MORRIS.

LITERATURE.

MEMOIRS OF FRANCIS LIEBER.

THE name and works of Dr. Francis Lieber are not likely to be forgotten, if the pious veneration of his widow can bring home to the rising generation the extent of his services in the cause of political science. A stout volume of 439 octavo pages contains extracts from his diary and copious correspondence, with a thread of narrative connecting the earlier events of his life, under the rather pretentious title of "The Life and Letters of Francis Lieber" (Edited by Thomas Sergeant Perry. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.). The publication of two volumes of his "Miscellaneous Writings," by J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1881 (8vo., pp. 534 and 552), with an Introduction by President Gilman, and Judge Thayer's admirable "Memoir," delivered before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1873, had practically told the story of Lieber's busy literary career. Indeed, the bibliography of his more important publications given in the closing pages of that work was of itself the best record of his long life of labor, from his "Greek Journal" in 1823 down to the latest of his contributions to the juridical view of our own Rebellion in 1872, the year of his death, nearly a hundred distinct titles, nearly all of them on subjects closely connected with the main business of his teaching, at the desk, through the press and in books,—Political Science. A pupil and favorite friend of Niebuhr, Lieber was never forgetful of his stirring youth, with the share he had taken in the German War of Liberation,—he fought at Leipsic and Waterloo, he was imprisoned for his liberal opinions, he was practically exiled from Germany, tried his hand at the Greek Revolution, but soon came back to teaching, and at Rome and in London was able to make his mark. Coming to the United States in 1827, he worked hard at his "Encyclopædia Americana" and other bread-winners, enjoying the companionship and sympathy of the best men in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, making steady additions to his own large store of knowledge and frequent contributions to historical and political literature and topics of the times.

In 1835, he was appointed Professor of History and Political Economy in the College of South Carolina, and for twenty years resided at Columbia in that State, doing his full share of college work, publishing his three principle books, his "Manual of Political Ethics," his "Legal and Political Hermeneutics," and his "Civil Liberty,"—all, in his opinion and in that of his contemporaries, epoch-making works, and the

source of much of the political literature of this and other countries. In spite of frequent visits to the North and occasional journeys abroad, he felt that his life was almost thrown away in the seclusion of his little South Carolina college, and, in spite of the friendship of its leading citizens and of his own pupils, many of them notable in the great events of the Rebellion, he was never lukewarm in his devotion to the Union and his hostility to slavery.

In 1844, he was offered a professorship in Berlin, but he returned to the United States, and, not until 1856, did he exchange his chair in South Carolina for that of History in Columbia College, New York, and that in turn for the chair of Political Science in its law school. From that time, until his death in that city in 1872, he was busied in allying himself with the leading representatives of his studies in France and Germany, with Laboulaye and Bluntschli, in forwarding the establishment of a broad school of International Law, by combined work in presenting its latest phases to the tribunal of popular opinion.

With the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion, he took a leading position as an adviser and authority with the Government on all questions within the scope of his studies, and his "Code of War" was formally adopted and published as the last word on the subject, while much of the literature both of the War Department and of the Loyal Publication Society emanated from his fertile pen. He was in constant correspondence with the leading men of the United States, and with those strongest in Political Science in Europe, and his letters show on what an intimate footing he stood with those who make the world wiser and better, and how freely he was recognized as an authority on every branch of the growing tree of Political Science.

The earlier letters give a vivid picture of the stirring incidents of his youth and manhood, but while these events remained fresh and bright in his memory, so that he dated his letters by the recurring anniversaries of the great historical occurrences of which he had been an eye-witness, he was in the highest and best sense an American. Historian, philosopher, moralist, economist, politician, soldier, Christian—such were the titles by which he asserted his claim to be heard, and he was so full a man that no occasion arose on which he did not find some means of utterance. His long residence in South Carolina made him the eye-witness of much that showed to others only its fell significance when the Rebellion broke out, but his political prescience had prepared him for the worst. That his eldest son should take part with the South in its hopeless struggle, as he foretold it, was a heavy burthen, and yet he himself lived to record the comfort he found in the fact that his two younger sons, who were both officers in the army of the United States, had gone to Richmond to put up a monument to the memory of their brother, who had sacrificed his life in a cause they and their father did their best to defeat.

Lieber was a thorough German in the freedom of his utterances in familiar correspondence, in the earnestness with which he pursued his friends with letters, and in the ease with which he made and broke and renewed the ties of intimacy with those in whose good faith he confided. Looking back through his letters, it is easy now to be struck with the fact that he was more of the professor than of the practical man, and to see how many of his ratiocinations failed under the actual test of experience. In 1861, in a letter to Sumner, from whom he had parted in a storm of anger over some difference as to the right way of discussing the slavery question in the earlier days, when it was only a matter of theory,—he expressed his doubts of an army of volunteers, lest it might become dangerous to the civil government. He was one of the first, however, to declare that slaves coming into the Northern lines were *ipso facto* free. He was opposed to voting in the army in 1863, but approved it in 1864, and gave very good reasons for both opinions. As early as 1864, he heartily endorsed Civil Service Reform and urged competitive examinations as the best test for appointments to office. He wanted to give Cabinet Ministers a right to sit in Congress, and put it on the ground that this would be a capital means of holding the President responsible to Congress. He was a bad prophet, for he wanted Mr. Lincoln to refuse a second term, as he was sure to be beaten and the country would be extinguished. He was, however, so ardent an admirer of Mr. Stanton that he evidently wanted the succession to the Presidency for his ideal great statesman. He had very peculiar notions of the nature of the power of the Supreme Court to decide laws either of Congress or the State Legislatures to be unconstitutional. He was clear in his own mind as to the extent of the influence of the American Revolution on that of France. He described "the German Jews in America as gaining in influence daily, being rich, intelligent and educated, or at least seeking education; they read better books than the rest of the Germans," and, as late as 1869, he must have astonished his Heidelberg friend, Bluntschli, by his strong endorsement of their right to appointments from the American government. Garfield in Washington and Holtzendorff in Berlin were his last correspondents; to the former he gave freely of his store of knowledge of practical legislation, to the latter he wrote the last letter printed in this volume,—full of accounts of his literary activity, when he was suddenly cut off, and his long and well-spent life ended.

It is natural that the family should put upon record all that he wrote and said, but it is hardly likely that these late posthumous publications

will vary the general judgment already entered upon his great works. Indeed, it is not quite clear that there is not some risk of injustice in thus indulging in the luxury of boundless admiration, to the extent of printing letters written on the spur of the moment, in the heat of a great contest, and many things, asserted in that dogmatic form which was natural to an old teacher, may have been merely tentatively put and meant to draw forth the criticism or rejoinder of his able correspondents.

LENORMANT'S "BEGINNINGS OF HISTORY."—The discoveries made by the Assyriologists as to the earliest traditions of the Shemitic race, while by no means so novel as is supposed by those who do not know how much has been preserved by the Greek historians, have an intense interest for all who regard the Book of Genesis as a record of the world's beginnings. The interest would be far greater if the Book of Genesis had been the new discovery, and the Assyrian inscriptions had been our previous sources of knowledge. The Bible story and the cuneiform inscriptions evidently record the same great Shemitic tradition; but the former in a shape simpler, more primitive and truer to nature. M. François Lenormant, the foremost of French investigators in this department, thinks this is the result of a purifying selection from the common stock of Shemitic traditions. It is equally credible that the Hebrew story represents the earliest and least corrupted account, and the other ingenious and unworthy perversions in the interest of local polytheisms. On either hypothesis, his new work "The Beginnings of History according to the Bible and the Traditions of Oriental Peoples" (New York, Chas. Scribner's Sons) is a work of great value. He begins with a literal version of the first twelve chapters of Genesis, rearranged according to the documentary sources on which the narrative is based, and then proceeds with a series of comparative studies on the Creation of Man, the First Sin, the Kerubim and the revolving sword, the Fratricide and the foundation of the first City, the Sethites and the Quinites, the ten Antediluvian Patriarchs and the Deluge. In each he investigates the parallel traditions, first of all of the Shemitic nations, and then of the early mythologies generally, not excepting those of the Aztecs.

M. Lenormant is disposed generally to find mythological and fanciful elements in the story, and to regard coincidences in the traditions of other countries as proving this. This comparative method, as has been shown by some modern illustrations, is a dangerous one; yet it is the only one available at present. And, as he well insists in his preface, nothing of our religious faith depends upon our adhesion to the principle that the Old Testament everywhere is authentic history. So that what degree of credence is to be given to the stories in Genesis may be left to historical and Biblical science to decide. We fully recognize this, while regarding M. Lenormant's results as only provisory and liable to revision. Some of them, such as his attempt to locate the garden of Eden, being disputed on good grounds by Assyriologists of equal eminence with himself. Frederick Delitzsch, in his great work on this topic, has made a contribution to what we may call Biblical Assyriology, at least as important as any of M. Lenormant's, and he everywhere sees in the Genesis narrative a degree of historic credibility far greater than that recognized by his French compeer.

But, after all, these are purely scientific questions; and we agree with Professor Francis Brown, of Union Theological Seminary, who furnishes an introduction to this translation, that "the time has long gone by when the religious life could afford to look askance upon critical study of the documents from which it is itself fed. Each year is teaching us more plainly that spiritual truth suffers worse injury from any attempt on the part of its champions to repress or trammel reverent investigation, than it ever can even from the excess of radical criticism."

Not the least valuable part of the book is the Appendices, which give, in translations, the Greek and Shemitic documents, on which our knowledge of Shemitic tradition outside the Bible rests. The last of these is the famous Assyrian account of the Deluge with an interlinear translation.

CONWAY'S LIFE OF EMERSON.—Mr. Conway's book about Emerson ("Emerson at Home and Abroad." By Moncure Daniel Conway. James R. Osgood & Co., Boston) is, in many respects, a model biography. Both in method and matter, it has marked originality. Instead of pursuing the usual course of presenting the events of the career of his subject from childhood straight onward, Mr. Conway has dealt in each chapter with some phase of Emerson's life and thought, presenting it as a separate whole, and often, even in the earlier divisions of the volume, including matters which belonged to the concluding years of Emerson's life. Thus, while all important incidents have full and adequate consideration, there is in each chapter individuality, force and interest which could hardly have been supplied in a consecutive narrative. And while the form in which the book is cast deserves praise, too much can hardly be said in commendation of the elegance of the literary method employed by Mr. Conway in presenting his views of his friend. The text is rich with jewels of expression and with sentences felicitously constructed to throw light upon Emerson's character, as a thinker, a friend, a parent and a public man.

The most striking characteristic of the work is the fervor of the author's devotion to Emerson. It amounts in fact positively to idolatry. The rhapsodical first chapter, in which the writer reviews his own feelings at the time when he came under Emerson's influence, is rather more intense than its successors, but it is fairly indicative of them. It is, perhaps, not an exaggeration to assert that Mr. Conway regards Emerson as very nearly the greatest man that ever lived; and while those who have never felt Emerson's direct personal influence are aware that it must have been extraordinary, they cannot regard, without feelings of protest, the extraordinary claims advanced for him in these pages. Mr. Conway, in several places, does not hesitate to speak of him in the language used by Christians in alluding to Christ; in fact, the disposition appears to be to try to place him upon a level with the Redeemer of the world. Thus, on page 178, we are informed respecting certain of the admirers of the Concord philosopher, that "each of the young thinkers had tasted the holier sacrament in this heart [Emerson's] whose blood was shed for them;" that is to say, a holier sacrament than the Christian sacrament. On page 363, Emerson is alluded to as the "good shepherd who carried them [his intellectual children] in his arms." On page 332, in a letter quoted by Mr. Conway, the simile is carried further, for, in a description of a supper attended by Emerson, one of the youths who sat next to him is spoken of as "the Apostle John." To persons who retain their faith in the ancient creed, this is revolting, and not only revolting, but in a degree nonsensical. It is not, however, more absurd than the assumption many times expressed in the volume, and expressed as if there could be no reasonable grounds for a contrary opinion, that Christianity is a dead and powerless faith. There is no need to argue such a question here, and it would appear as if no argument were required to prove that the Christian religion has far greater force in the world to-day than it ever had. Emerson was a very great man, but he was much too small for the task of supplanting the Christian faith with new doctrines. His ardent admirers may choose to assume and believe that he has achieved this feat, but the world will not be convinced that there is darkness because a few smart men and women choose to shut their eyes and insist that there is no light.

Two of the most entertaining chapters in the book are those in which Mr. Conway gives his personal recollections of Thoreau and of Hawthorne and his wife, and of the relations of these with Emerson. Much that is written herein is new, and all of it enriches our knowledge of three persons whose lives deserve to be well considered by the world. Of Emerson's friendship for Carlyle not much is said that has not been well said already; but there are glimpses in these pages of other famous people, George Eliot among them, who came into contact with Emerson, and many of the incidents related concerning the influences exerted in both directions are deserving of attention. The general impression gained from the portrait of Emerson presented by Mr. Conway will be little different from that already existing in the popular mind. Even those who regard with greatest dislike the extravagant claims made in behalf of the philosopher will perceive in him the figure of a man of surpassing intellectual force, singular originality, gentle and lovable disposition, and extraordinary capacity for leadership in certain directions. The mere fact that a man who seemed to be wholly devoid of ambition should have won the intense devotion of so large a number of brilliant men and women is proof enough that he was a rare character among men.

"HEART OF STEEL" (A NOVEL. By Christian Reid. New York: D. Appleton & Co.).—Readers of THE AMERICAN had offered them, a few months ago, some facts regarding the favorite Southern novelist, Miss Frances C. Fisher, who, writing under the *nom de plume* of "Christian Reid," has within the last ten years made a reputation hardly second to that of any other woman novelist of the period. Yet we have to say that it is not by such books as "Heart of Steel" that Miss Fisher has won her marked portion of success. In this, her latest book, she leaves the ground where she was most at home, and where most of her triumphs have been won—the description of Southern character and scenery—and gives us the stereotyped round of European show-places and—what is worse—the regulation set of characters of the society novel. There is something unpleasantly artificial about this book, in recalling the freshness and charm of "Carmen's Inheritance" and "A Gentle Belle." The novel is one of the very longest in the language—nearly 600 closely printed pages—yet it tells but a trifling story, one that certainly could have been narrated with better effect in a sixth part of the space. This is the more singular, since Miss Fisher has at other times shown a real talent in that difficult line of literary work, the short story. But this book is built rather upon the German than the American model; it is inordinately spun out, at the same time that it is afflicted by an ultra sentimentality that is much more akin to the tone of the ponderous romances which Mrs. Wister so faithfully and industriously translates for us, than to that of the brisk and keen American story. We do not mean that Miss Fisher in any of her books resembles the New England school; her art throughout is of a very different kind, but in "Heart of Steel" her deliberation, sentiment and religious bias (she is evidently an ardent Romanist) are all intensified. Yet

she doubtless understands her special public very well. We should think it unlikely that such a book as "Heart of Steel" would find much favor in the North, in New England especially, where the present tendency in fiction is towards a realism as opposed to the book under notice, as cold is opposed to heat, but it may very possibly be relished in the South.

The heroine of the story, *Irene Lescar*, has been brought up under a cloud of misery which the neglect of her father cast upon her mother and herself. This unpleasant husband and father was a person of high rank, but his wife and daughter gather no benefit from that fact, and the mother earns her living and educates her child by public singing. After the mother's death, *Irene* meets a nephew of the bad father who, in the course of time, and after the young people have fallen irrevocably in love with each other, succeeds to the estates to which *Irene* and her mother were rightly entitled. Here is an excellent opportunity of righting a wrong, but several hundred pages of backing and filling, yet with no incident to speak of, are required for the purpose, and even then there is no sharp sense of satisfaction in the climax. Miss Fisher writes excellently; she has plenty of ideas and has the natural storyteller's fluency and facility in very full measure, but she lacks humor; that precious possession would have kept her clear of the slough of this book. It is to be hoped in her next venture she may lay her work out on less generous lines, and leave an effete aristocracy to its devices, while she returns to a field in which her good descriptive and analytic power has better scope.

MINOR NOTICES.

A GRACEFUL variant of the somewhat monotonous theme of a European tour is attained in "Three Vassar Girls Abroad: Rambles of Three College Girls on a Vacation Trip through France and Spain for Amusement and Instruction, with their Haps and Mishaps" (By Lizzie W. Champney. Boston: Estes & Lauriat). Not much novelty is possible in the record of a hasty trip through such well-beaten paths, but such as can be secured by the survey of the scenes through the eyes of three fresh, spirited girls, "with no nonsense about them," impressed with the idea that Vassar girls, as students pure and simple, may go anywhere and do anything which would be innocent and lawful for Cambridge boys or other masculines. The self-possessed young lady assuring the impertinent Frenchman that she has "no need of a porter," expresses this independent attitude very well. The illustrations of the book are numerous and, without claims to high artistic merit, are graphic and spirited enough to add to its popularity and interest.

Every earnest and well-considered attempt to elucidate the proper principles of training the mind and body of infancy and youth deserves and will secure respectful attention, and so much at least is due to "Youth: Its Care & Culture. An Outline of Principles for Parents and Guardians" (By J. Mortimer-Granville. With American Notes and Additions. New York: M. L. Holbrook & Co.). Though disowning for his work any pretensions to the formal dignity of a treatise, the author proceeds, with much method and scientific accuracy, to define the laws of growth and development, giving special weight to the subjects of heredity and transmission of congenital diseases. The latter he considers generally eradicable by proper treatment, even including insanity and those tendencies which may be considered as moral taints. The methods for the training of youth advocated in this treatise are sensible and apparently good, though inclining to a somewhat severe Spartan simplicity, but the author's views of the nature of the "boy-man" and the "girl-woman" are decidedly pessimistic and such as can find no favor with those familiar with honest, innocent youth. His experiences must indeed have been unfortunate, to prompt his warnings against unnamable evils as tendencies so common to youth as to be only guarded against by incessant vigilance. *Mens sana in corpore sano* is surely not of such phoenix-like rarity in youth as Mr. J. Mortimer-Granville would have us believe.

The juveniles of the present day run so much to illustrations that there seems sometimes danger that their pictorial will stand to their literary qualities in the proportion of Falstaff's two gallons of sack to his halfpennyworth of bread. In "Two Teaparties" (By Rosalie Vanderwater. With illustrations by Wilson de Meza. Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co.: New York, London and Paris) much wealth of illustration adorned with brilliant coloring is lavished upon a set of verses of very slight interest and moderate literary merit. There must be a demand to call forth the profuse supply of purely decorative literature prevailing at this time, but it is a question whether the taste for it in children is a spontaneous one, and not rather imposed upon them by their elders.

Of much more pith and interest is the story of "Rosy" (By Mrs. Molesworth, author of "Carrots," "Cuckoo Clock," "Tell Me a Story." Illustrated by Walter Crane. London: Macmillan & Co.). In this, the dramatic elements of a good heroine, a naughty heroine in process of being made good, a false accusation and the final triumph of innocence, are very effectively worked out with juvenile actors. The illustrations in this pretty book are of course good, though the glory of color, of which Walter Crane has such mastery, is denied in this case.

A new story by Björnson is a kind of literary event. In "Magnhild," just issued in English by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, admirers of the Norse storyteller will find one of the best of his books. At the same time, it is quite different in tone from "Arne" and other favorite books—"marking," Mr. R. B. Anderson, the very competent translator, says in his preface, "a new epoch in Björnson's career as a writer of fiction." We can hardly endorse these words to the full, but there is certainly a greater breadth and gravity in this tale than in the others we have seen, although nothing of the old charm is lost. This volume closes the present series of translations of Björnson's works. We understand it has been markedly successful, a fact creditable to the judgment of American readers.

Among the semi-juveniles comes the history of "Six Girls; A Home Story." (By Fannie Bell Irving. Boston: Estes & Lauriat.) This is one of the "Little Women" class of books, in which the fortunes of a family of sisters are followed from childhood to maturity, their characters developed, their faults happily amended, and most of them safely landed in matrimony. It has not the strong flavor of fact and reality which gave such a charm to its prototype, but has considerable vivacity and interest, with good morals as thick as plums in a Christmas pudding. Its eight illustrations are by F. T. Merrill, the designer of the "Little Women" illustrations.

"The Queens of England," put out in "the Young Folks History" series by Estes & Lauriat, Boston, is an abridgment and adaptation by Rosalie Kaufman of the well-known work by Agnes Strickland. The editor has endeavored to prepare a narrative, not only to interest young people, but to prove a source of profit to them as well. She has been fairly successful in this, and the many illustrations that the publishers have provided add much to the attractiveness of the volume. We hardly need say that Agnes Strickland's "Queens of England" has long been a standard historical work.

Mr. Morton MacMichael, Jr., has made a very creditable first appearance in literature in his "Landlubber's Log," published by Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. The "Log" consists of a journal kept during the four months' voyage of an American merchantman, bound from Philadelphia to San Francisco. It very agreeably details life aboard ship, and shows the author to have gifts of observation and humor, and will naturally be regarded as a companion to Mr. Dana's once famous and still delightful work, "Two Years Before the Mast."

Hon. George Shea, Chief Justice of the Marine Court of New York, has written, and Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, have published, a little treatise on "The Nature and Form of the American Government," which will attract the notice of thoughtful persons. The argument is, the proper foundation of government in Christianity, and the layman's view on a subject of wide proportions is given with equal fairness and strength. Judge Shea writes well, and he has here a subject worthy any man's best power.

"The Young Folks History of Mexico" is an agreeable popularization of an always fascinating subject. It is by Frederick A. Ober, who appears to have made use of the best authorities and to have made his book accurate at all points, while holding especially in view the picturesqueness of his theme. The pictures with which the volume is liberally supplied help the narrative greatly. (Estes & Lauriat, Boston.)

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- JAMES FENIMORE COOPER. ("American Men of Letters" Series.) By Thomas R. Lounsbury. Pp. 306. \$1.25. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.)
- A LANDLUBBER'S LOG OF HIS VOYAGE AROUND CAPE HORN. By Morton MacMichael, Jr. Pp. 150. \$1. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.
- YOUNG FOLKS' HISTORY OF MEXICO. By Frederick A. Ober. Pp. 534. \$1.50. Estes & Lauriat, Boston. (Porter & Coates, Philadelphia.)
- POEMS. By Minot J. Savage. Pp. 247. \$1.50. Geo. H. Ellis, Boston. (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.)
- OLE BULL. A Memoir. By Sara C. Bull. Pp. 417. \$2.50. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.)
- TALKS AND STORIES ABOUT HEROES AND HOLIDAYS. Edited by Rev. W. F. Crafts, A. M. Pp. 454. \$1.25. New York: Funk & Wagnalls.
- AN ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY. By J. W. Mollett, B. A. Pp. 350. \$5. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.)
- MR. ISAACS. A Tale of Modern India. By F. Marion Crawford. Pp. 316. \$1. Macmillan & Co., New York. (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.)
- MAGNHILD. A Novel. By Björnsterne Björnson. Pp. 225. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.)
- MONTE ROSA. The Epic of an Alp. By Starr H. Nichols. Pp. 148. \$1. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.)
- THE HOUSE OF A MERCHANT PRINCE. A Novel of New York. By William Henry Bishop. Pp. 420. \$1.50. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.)
- RUTH ELIOT'S DREAM. A Story for Girls. By Mary Lakeman. Pp. 270. \$1.25. Lee & Shepard, Boston. (E. Claxton & Co., Philadelphia.)

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

IN our review of "The Bhagavat Gita" (THE AMERICAN, December 9), it was said that a Chicago house reprinted the antiquated translation by Wilkins, in 1871. We learn that in 1874 the same house reprinted the later and better version of J. Cockburn Thomson. We also should have added that Dr. W. T. Harris,—then of St. Louis, now of Concord, Mass.,—discussed the poem some years ago in *The Western*.

Friedrich Spielhagen, perhaps the most successful novelist of Germany at present, is bringing out a work on the principles of his art, called "Theorie und Technik des Romans."

Dr. Wm. F. Poole's "Index to Periodical Literature," brought down to January, 1882, is announced by Messrs. Jas. R. Osgood & Co. While called a third edition, it is practically a new book. The first edition appeared in 1848 and the second in 1853, and it has been out of print for many years. The work upon the "Index," as now arranged, has been of a truly prodigious sort. It gives in a condensed alphabetical arrangement the contents of 240 different periodicals, numbering considerably over 6,000 volumes. By the common consent of librarians and publishers in this country and in Europe it is agreed that Dr. Poole has performed an unexampled service to literature. The assistance of Mr. William J. Fletcher, associate editor, also deserves warm recognition.

Mr. Howard Challen, Philadelphia, announces the publication of a monthly periodical called *The Interchange*, intended to "interchange" information of value to publishers of new books and periodicals, and to promote sales among specialists desirous of knowing where they can obtain books or magazines treating subjects of interest to them. It will contain an alphabetical index to subjects in current and forthcoming reviews and magazines and ought to be of much value. In a certain way it will supplement the Poole "Index," and keep up his work.

Messrs. T. P. Peterson & Bro. have put out a new edition of their somewhat famous brochure, "Billy Vidkins." The incident attracts some notice through the fact that the illustrations are the work of Henry L. Stephens, the humorous artist, recently deceased. These cuts are very primitive in their art, but they are said to have been Mr. Stephens's first work, executed when he was a mere lad.

Mr. George Grierson, of the Bengal Civil Service, and Dr. Hoerle, of the Bengal Educational Department, are about to publish a dictionary of the Behari language. The existence of Behari as an independent language has for some time past been officially recognized.

The *Whitehall Review*, considered a high authority in politics by many people in England, has been purchased by Mr. Lyall, proprietor of *The Sportsman*.

It is generally affirmed that when Benjamin Franklin first went to England he was employed at Palmer's printing office on the second edition of Wollaston's "Religion of Nature," and, in fact, Franklin himself asserts as much; but Mr. Solly proves, in an article which appears in the December number of the *Bibliographer*, that it was the third edition, published in 1725, after the author's death, upon which Franklin worked.

Mr. A. B. Alcott continues to improve. He is not yet allowed to talk much or to see many friends, but he can speak quite distinctly.

Since the death of Dickens, about twelve years ago, 4,250,000 volumes of his works have been sold in England alone.

A collection of representative specimens of all the more prominent sonneteers is about to appear in Edinburgh, under the title, somewhat far fetched, of "C Sonnets by C Authors."

Sir William Palmer, of whom Cardinal Newman spoke as the "only really learned man among us," is still one of the survivors of the Oxford movement, and is employing his old age in bringing out, under the editorship of the Rev. Malcolm MacColl, a revised and partly rewritten edition of his great work, the "Treatise on the Church of Christ," which has been out of print for forty years. This new edition has been undertaken at the urgent suggestion of Mr. Gladstone.

An edition *de luxe* of the novels of Jane Austen, in seven volumes, has been published by Bentley & Son, London.

The British Museum has acquired a volume of the letters of John Stuart Mill, which were written by him in his fifteenth year, and addressed to his father.

A complete edition of Paul Hayne's Poems will be issued soon, by subscription, by Messrs. D. Lothrop & Co., Boston.

Messrs. Roberts Bros. will shortly put forth a book by the late Josiah Quincy, called "Figures of the Past."

The authorized reports of the lectures delivered last summer at the Concord School of Philosophy, will be published immediately by Moses King, of Cambridge.

The *American Naturalist* will begin next month its seventeenth volume. It is still published in Philadelphia by Messrs. McCalla & Staveland, under the management of Dr. Packard and Prof. E. D. Cope.

Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons have now in the press Mr. Bosworth Smith's "Life of Lord Lawrence," to be issued in this country simultaneously with its publication in England. The biography, which is compiled from letters, journals, and unpublished papers, is also a history of the Indian mutiny which occurred during Lord Lawrence's rule in India. Competent authorities have pronounced it the greatest biography since the time of Trevelyan's "Life of Lord Macaulay."

The *North American Review* for January opens with a symposium in which three of the most prominent advocates in this country of the "Revision of Church Creeds," namely Rev. Dr. Newman Smyth, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, set forth the grounds upon which such revision is deemed necessary as a defence of revealed religion against the encroachments of scepticism, and as an adjustment of the relations between faith and science. "University Education for Women" is discussed by Prof. W. Le Conte Stevens. Prof. Isaac L. Rice gives a "Definition of Liberty." Rev. Dr. H. W. Thomas writes an article that can hardly fail to strike a sympathetic chord in many a mind on "Responsibilities of Progressive Thinkers." There are several other excellent articles.

Messrs. Henkels & Tripple (1117 Chestnut street) sold last week, in four afternoons, the library of the late Hon. Joseph R. Chandler. The catalogue made 1602 numbers, and the collection included a number of rare volumes, historical and other. The prices realized were satisfactory; a copy of Smith's "History of New Jersey" (Burlington: 1765) brought \$27.50, and one of Stith's "History of the First Discovery and Settlement of Virginia" (Williamsburg: 1747) brought \$20.00. Both of these had at one time been the property of Richard Smith, who was a member of the Continental Congress, and bore his autograph on the title-page. The "Works and Correspondence of Alexander Hamilton," edited by his son, 7 volumes (New York: 1850), brought \$66.50; this is a fine clean copy, and the work is now regarded as rare. A copy of Longfellow's "Spanish Student" (16 mo., Cambridge: 1843) brought \$4.10, and one of Emerson's "Poems" (also 16 mo., Boston: 1847), \$6.75. Another volume of Longfellow's, "The Estray Collection of Poems" (Boston: 1847), brought \$5.00. A collection of water-color views of Pompeii, obtained by Mr. Chandler when he represented the United States at Rome, brought \$18.48. The same auctioneers are preparing for a very extensive sale—the most important collection of books, they state, ever offered at auction in Philadelphia—which is to begin in January. The library makes 25,000 volumes, and cost \$60,000. The sale will continue probably six weeks.

ART NOTES.

MR. J. E. TEMPLE has presented to the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts two more pictures, both still-life paintings, by Mr. Milne Ramsay.

The Annual Exhibition of the Boston Paint and Clay Club is now open.

The inauguration of Spohr's statue at Cassel is now definitely fixed for the 25th of April, 1883.

The Messenger of the Fine Arts is the title of a new periodical to be published from the beginning of the year at St. Petersburg.

The Courier de l'Art says that M. Crauk is putting the last touches to the monument of Coligny which is to be erected near the Louvre.

The Boston Art Club talks of managing a class for study from the life.

Sir Frederick Leighton has made great progress with his large rondel for the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, which is the central element of the vast and complex decorative scheme of which Mr. Poynter undertakes the more comprehensive part.

Great success is said to have attended the representation at Darmstadt of the "Antigone" of Sophocles, with Mendelssohn's music, on a stage arranged after the antique fashion.

In place of M. Jouffroy, as a sculptor member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts, deceased, M. J. A. J. Falguière has been elected. M. Falguière obtained in the second tour de scrutin eighteen votes, M. Crauk fourteen votes, and M. Marcia two votes.

It was not the Colonial Gallery that was burned at Sydney, Australia, as reported by cable, but a loan collection. The "Chaucer" by Madox Brown, and other fine pictures, may therefore be safe.

Stephen Parrish has recently finished a very large and effective etching, "The Coast of New Brunswick," which has a foreground of much strength and a sky of exceptional delicacy and beauty of line. The subject of this plate is much similar to his "Low Tide, Bay of Fundy."

The Society of American Artists, by a recent amendment to its constitution, has made its jury of admission for the annual exhibition elective. It was formerly composed of the officers and Board of Control and the Hanging Committee. For the first time, it will now be selected from the members at large, the officers however, not being disqualified from election.

Lucy Crane came of a family of artists, her father being a painter of repute in his day, especially for the grace and charm of his portraits and miniatures, and her brothers, Walter and Thomas Crane, are among the best known English designers of our time. Their sister died March 31st, 1882, shortly before she reached her twenty-first year, from a sudden attack of heart disease, and her only legacy to literature, aside from the rhymes which she wrote for the books which her brothers illustrated, is the "Lectures on Art and the Formation of Taste," which she began to deliver in various parts of England shortly before her death. The little book bears the imprint of Macmillan & Co., and is gotten up partly as a memorial volume, to which her brothers have added numerous illustrations in the best style of their art.

The "United States Art Directory and Year Book," compiled by S. R. Koehler, and published by Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co., is a guide for artists, art students and travellers, which no doubt will be found of wide and practical use. The compiler claims it to be the first attempt to give a bird's-eye view of the organized efforts making in the United States in behalf of art. It mentions with sufficient detail the various art institutions of the country and gives an artists' directory, and various other matters of importance.

The six months' loan of the "Madonna Dei Candelabri" of Raphael, which the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York has secured, is a matter of the greatest interest to art lovers. The Museum has the option of buying the famous picture for \$200,000 and efforts are now making to raise the money. This Madonna is the property of Mr. Munro Butler-Johnstone of England, to whom it descended by inheritance from the Munro Gallery. It came in the last century from the Borghese Gallery in Rome. The painting is on a circular panel 26 inches in diameter. The face of the mother is in some particulars the most beautiful of Raphael's madonnas; such flesh and blood both of the mother and child, and such effulgence of divinity, no hand but Raphael's ever painted.

The exhibition by the Philadelphia Society of Etchers will open at the Academy of Fine Arts on Wednesday next, the 27th instant, and on the preceding evening there will be a reception to Dr. Seymour Haden. The exhibition is to continue until February 3d, and on each Thursday there will be a promenade rehearsal by the Germania Orchestra. The private view of the exhibition, by members of the press, takes place to-day (December 23d). A very attractive exhibition is assured, upwards of twelve hundred modern works having been received for it.

NEWS SUMMARY.

—The expected changes in the British Cabinet are now completed, the following ministers having taken (on Saturday last) the oath before the Queen in Council: The Earl of Derby as Secretary of State for the Colonies; Lord Kimberly as Secretary of State for India; Lord Hartington as Secretary of State for War; Rt. Hon. Hugh C. Childers as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

—The Naval Advisory Board expect to submit a report to the Secretary of the Navy early in January, recommending a plan to be adopted for the construction of one vessel, the general plan of which they think will be adopted in building the other vessels.

—The Northwestern "railroad armistice" has been signed. It binds the contracting parties to "maintain rates" for one year.

—A foreign company, headed by Benjamin Newgas, of Liverpool, has bought 100,000 acres of cotton lands in Arkansas.

—Thirteen vessels and one hundred and fifteen lives have been lost in the Gloucester, Mass., fisheries this year.

—Later accounts of the fire at Kingston, Jamaica, reduce the estimates of loss to \$15,000,000—one-half the original figure.

—The depot and wharf of the Manhattan Beach railroad, at Bay Ridge, L. I., were burned on Friday, with 10 locomotives and 60 passenger cars. Loss, \$500,000.

—Arrests in connection with the Phoenix Park murders in Dublin have been made which are believed to have importance. The detectives profess to be at last on the trail of the murderers.

—It has been ascertained that the importation of Sumatran tobacco into the United States has increased from 38 pounds in 1880 to 782,763 pounds in 1882.

—Great suffering is reported among the Cherokees in the Indian Territory, owing to the ravages of small-pox.

—Three of the murderers of the Joyce family, near Galway, Ireland, have been hung. Five others have been transported for life.

—A case of what is pronounced "genuine leprosy" has been developed in the almshouse at Salem, Mass.

—The amendment to the Post-Office appropriation bill, appropriating \$600,000 for special mail facilities (fast-mail service) was defeated by the House.

—About two hundred and forty Southern "matrimonial" and "natal" associations have been placed upon the black list of the Post-Office Department, by order of the Postmaster-General.

—The House Judiciary Committee has adopted the Davis bill for the relief of the Supreme Court of the United States, by the creation of nine intermediate courts. The Democrats voted against the bill.

—A "German Saloon Keepers' Association" was formed in Milwaukee on Wednesday for the purpose of supporting for political offices only men "who will protect the rights of the members."

—The amount recommended in the Army Appropriation bill, reported in the House on Tuesday, is \$29,681,700, \$1,763,754 less than the appropriation for the current year.

—The Malleable Iron Manufacturers' Association of the United States met in Pittsburgh on Wednesday, for the purpose of ascertaining the true condition of trade and to discuss the best method of "keeping up prices."

—1,000 Mennonites in Manitoba, 600 in Emerson and 400 in Winnipeg have been made British subjects by naturalization this week. They will be given patents for homesteads.

—The Nilsson concert engagement is pronounced the greatest amusement success ever known in the United States, not excepting the tour of Jenny Lind. Four concerts in San Francisco have realized \$30,000. The *Diva* has so far sung eighteen times, the receipts aggregating \$93,697. The engagement is for fifty concerts.

—There was a sharp shock of earthquake felt on Tuesday over a considerable portion of New Hampshire. The "earthwave" travelled from east to west, and lasted from eight to ten seconds.

—All the political prisoners at Damietta have been released.

—The preparations for rendering the Weser navigable for seagoing vessels, from Bremerhaven to Bremen, have been finished. The works will require six years, and when completed are expected to give an immense impetus to trade between Bremen and the United States.

—Relations between Germany and Russia, according to the latest cable advices, are "strained." The panic seems to be attributed to a report of the echeloning of the Russian army on the Gallician frontier. Russian exchange was never lower on the Berlin Bourse since the battle of Plevna than now.

—The week's "obituary" includes Godlove S. Orth, ex-Congressman, of Indiana; Robert Ould, of Virginia, who was Confederate agent for the exchange of prisoners during the War of the Rebellion; W. T. Henley, the English telegraphic engineer; Dr. J. Forsyth Meigs, of Philadelphia; Henry James, the metaphysician, father of the favorite novelist; Rev. Dr. Close, Dean of Carlisle, and Trenor W. Park, the American railroad and mining operator, projector of the famous "Emma Mine" speculation.

—The U. S. Supreme Court having sustained the conviction in the U. S. District Court of New York of Gen. N. M. Curtis, for collecting political assessments from office-holders, Gen. Curtis on Wednesday paid his fine of \$1,000 into the New York court and was discharged.

—The resolution to adjourn over the holidays has not disturbed the Ways and Means Committee of the House, which announces that it will hold a session every day next week except Sunday and Christmas.

—The U. S. Senate, on Wednesday, confirmed Clayton Macmichael, of Philadelphia, to be Marshal of the District of Columbia; J. C. Bancroft Davis, of New York, Judge of the Court of Claims, and Commodore Edward R. Calhoun to be Rear Admiral.

DRIFT.

—M. Cernuschi, the economist and bimetallist, has announced his intention of bequeathing to the city of Paris his unrivalled collection of Chinese and Japanese bronzes. The collection was the result of a voyage to the East in 1872.

—The Pennsylvania Board of Agriculture makes the following estimate of the crops of the State for 1882: Wheat, 22,425,000 bushels; corn, 39,875,000 bushels; oats, 34,580,000; rye, 5,805,000 bushels; potatoes, 13,760,000 bushels; tobacco, 28,750,000 pounds.

—Verdi has taken the Pallazzo Doria in Genoa for his winter residence. He will there devote himself to the composition of the new opera "Iago," on which it has been rumored from time to time that he was engaged. The opera poem was written for him by Arrigo Boito, the composer of "Mefistofele," from Shakespeare's "Othello," a subject already set to music in Rossini's well-known work.

—The total vote in Massachusetts recently on the license question was 94,008, with a majority for license of 23,770. Twenty-one cities voted. Last year, with twenty cities voting, the total vote on this question was about 2,000 greater, and the majority for license about half as large. Last year eight cities voted against license and twelve for it. This year five voted against and sixteen for license.

—A correspondent of the *Army and Navy Register*, writing from Fort Keogh, M. T., says: "The Post Schools are sorry affairs, although from Washington one would be led to believe them very excellent in their effects. The writer lately visited a post school at a seven-company post. He found only two students. The rooms were uncleanly and ill lit. There were no maps, no descriptive pictures, nothing to tempt men to come.

—Mr. Vanderbilt denies the story that he made \$20,000,000 in the stock market during the last year, and that he fixed his own salary as President of the New York Central Road at \$35,000 a year. He said to a reporter: "I do not fix my own salary as President of all the roads over which I preside, and my salary is not one cent, excepting that when I attend a committee meeting I receive my regular fee of \$10, just as every other member of the board receives his."

—Mr. Henry Ward Beecher has followed Mr. Jay Gould and other illustrious exemplars in giving his views on speculative "corners." His testimony before the New York Senate Committee was to the effect that the gambling carried on by the merchants is far less injurious to public morals than the effect produced by church fairs and religious lotteries. As to stock speculation, he said he got a liberal education in that business by once buying Panama Railroad at \$400 and selling at \$100.

—The French dialect spoken by the Creoles of Louisiana sprang up almost entirely by ear. Illiterate whites and Africans, according to the *Journal of Philology*, catching the voluble utterances of the educated people around them, have altered, in their own way, the sense of the words, producing a lingo that resembles French as curiously as the extreme negro dialect resembles English. Creole children of wealthy parents are placed in charge of negro nurses, and thus learn the patois before they acquire the French.

—The *Illustrirte Zeitung* reports a remarkable discovery of coins made by a peasant near Mayence. Whilst digging, the man found an urn filled to the brim with gold gulden of the fourteenth century. The coins, consisting of 1,005 pieces in all, are said to be worth £500, and were coined between 1340 and 1390; almost all coinages of the fourteenth century are represented, from Florence and Venice to Lübeck, including some hitherto unknown to collectors. They have been sent to the Museum at Mayence.

—In this latitude the stars appear much brighter in winter than summer, which some suppose is owing to the temperature of the air. "Bright, frosty nights" is a common expression. But clearness, not temperature, is the factor in this case. On the coast of Peru, at the Equator, they often appear as bright as they ever do here; and at the Windward Islands of the West Indies, where the temperature is constantly above 70° Fahrenheit, through the night, they are always as bright as in any of our clear, frosty nights.

—A novel invention has been introduced by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, at the Union Depot, at Chicago. Instead of the old-fashioned stock of local tickets, of which there were over four hundred for various points, a small rotary press is used. A roll of cardboard containing 1,000 tickets, printed in two colors, is used. A single movement of a lever inks the type, dates and fills in the destination, registers date and amount, and separates the ticket and duplicate stub from the roll. The duplicate stub serves the agent for his report.

—Gen. Francis A. Walker writes a letter to Washington in reply to various criticisms on the census. He thinks the delays in the publication are not unprecedented or without excuse, and says: "When were ever the statistics of manufactures given to the public at an earlier date? After the eighth census they were not published until 1866; after the ninth census they were not issued from the printing office until early in 1873. The statistics of 1880 are now complete, and since I began to write this letter a proof has been placed before me of the full table of all the United States industries."

—The attention of the press and society in Russia in all the large towns is concentrated on the daily announcements of bank failures, speculation, embezzlement, frauds, and robberies of every kind. Scarcely a day passes without the news of some bank having been found insolvent or in a critical condition, or of some cashier of a Government institution or benevolent society having appropriated the funds and "cooked" the accounts. The Municipal Bank of Skopin, in the province of Riazan, has failed for over \$9,000,000. It is a legal point whether in this instance the whole of the inhabitants, through their municipal authorities, will not be held responsible. It is calculated that the embezzlements and robberies, both private and official, have this year amounted to over \$18,750,000.

—It is probable that more than the amount of money that was formerly spent in publishers' trinkets is now added to the usual amount spent for really good books. The question upon which no light has been thrown by inquirers at all the retail establishments and publishing houses is, what becomes of the thousands of absolutely worthless books that this year, not less than other years, have been thrust upon the market? Certainly the second-hand booksellers are not selling them. Perhaps the time is coming, thanks to an improving public taste, when the publishing houses will not find it profitable to do the work that should always have been left to toy-makers and chromo-manufacturers.

—The great monastery of Vatopedion, Greece, one of the oldest, grandest and wealthiest on the Holy Mountain has been nearly destroyed by fire. The monks of Mount Athos have no proper fire brigade appliances, and several of their convents have of late years been burned down either in whole or in part. It is to be hoped that in this case the fire did not reach the ancient square tower, in the top stories of which the priceless manuscript treasures of the monastery are contained. For Vatopedion has one of the finest, if not the very finest, as it certainly is the most admirably arranged and preserved, of the ancient libraries of the Holy Mountain. And as the monks cannot now be tempted, as in their days of innocence—the days of Curzon's "Monasteries of the Levant,"—to part with their superbly bound and illuminated MSS., it is hardly less than a crime to be insufficiently provided with appliances in case of fire.

THE PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY BULLETIN.

THE Directors of the Library Company of Philadelphia, having been enabled out of the funds of the Ridgway Branch to appropriate several thousand dollars last year for the purchase of books, their Bulletin for January, 1883, might naturally be expected to contain the titles of many costly works of reference; and such is, in fact, the case. The additions for the past six months include, for instance, the complete publications of the American Numismatic Society, of the Ballad Society of Great Britain, of the Harleian Society, the Paleographical Society, the Shakespeare Society, the Surtees' Society, and the American Entomological Society. Other notable accessions are 640 volumes of American geological reports, making the Company's collection of these important official documents of the several States probably the best in the world; a number of early pamphlets, pro and con, on the subject of vaccination; a large collection of music, including no less than a hundred and five choice operas arranged for the piano and voice; many valuable maps, including a full set of the war and other maps,—some very scarce,—issued under the authority of the Chief of Engineers of the U. S. Army; and a precious collection of Americana, embracing rare broadsides issued during the crisis of the revolutionary war. In the department of antiquities, we notice a complete set of Lepsius's works on Egypt in 35 vols., Layard's folio *Monuments of Nineveh*, Prisse d'Avennes *Art Egyptien*, Lajard's *Culte de Mithra* and Cesnola's *Salamina*.

The new Bulletin includes, moreover, in its one hundred pages some useful bibliographies of special subjects, such as a complete list of Philadelphia publications from 1735 to 1759, by Mr. Charles R. Hildeburn, in continuation of a previous list; a catalogue of pamphlets relating to the suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* during the rebellion; a bibliography of geological reports, and a curious résumé of the literature connected with the so-called Symmes's Hole. To crown all, this ancient and honorable institution has lately come into possession by bequest of a portrait of Washington in oil by Gilbert Stuart, an exceptionally good "replica," and one of Franklin by Benjamin West.

The recent action of the Board in opening the doors of the library at Locust and Juniper streets on Sunday afternoons appears to give general satisfaction; and, we understand, the subject of extending the same privilege at the Ridgway Branch is now under consideration. The proposed removal of the Historical Society to the corner of Locust and 13th streets,—the mansion of the late General Patterson,—will tend, if carried out, to the convenience of the members of both societies, the two libraries to some extent supplementing each other.

FINANCIAL AND TRADE REVIEW.

THURSDAY, December 21.

THE exports of breadstuffs, as shown by the statement for November, are still light; fortunately the volume of imports is also less. The oil markets have been greatly agitated by the development of new wells that show a large production, and there have been several severe fluctuations in prices. The iron and steel trades show a much improved front, and appear cheerful enough as to future prospects. The stock markets have been without notable changes.

The following were the closing quotations (sales) of leading stocks, in Philadelphia, yesterday: Northern Pacific, 45½; Ditto, preferred, 84¾; North Pennsylvania Railroad, 64; Reading Railroad, 27¾; Pennsylvania Railroad, 60; Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore, ex. div., 61; Lehigh Navigation, 39; Lehigh Valley, 63¾; Buffalo, Pittsburg and Western, 18¾.

The following were the closing prices of leading stocks in New York, yesterday: New York Central, 130¾; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 130¾; New York, Lake Erie and Western, 39¾; Missouri, Kansas and Texas, 33¾; New Jersey Central, 72¾; Chicago and Northwestern, 138¾; Lake Shore, 117¾; St. Paul, 108; Delaware and Hudson, 109; Western Union, 81¾; Wabash, preferred, 54¾; Louisville and Nashville, 54¾; Denver and Rio Grande, 43.

The following were the closing prices of United States securities in New York yesterday:

	Bid.	Asked.
United States 5s, 1881, continued at 3½	103¾	103¾
United States 4½s, 1891, coupon,	113¾	113¾
United States 4½s, 1891, registered,	113¾	113¾
United States 4s, 1907, coupon,	120¾	120¾
United States 4s, 1907, registered	119¾	119¾
United States 3s, registered,	103¾	103¾
United States currency 6s, 1895,	128	
United States currency 6s, 1896,	129	
United States currency 6s, 1897,	130	
United States currency 6s, 1898,	131	
United States currency 6s, 1899,	132	

The statement of the New York banks, on the 16th inst., showed a gain in surplus reserve of \$976,675, so that they then held \$6,079,925 in excess of legal requirements.

The following were the principal items in the statement:

	Dec. 9.	Dec. 16.	Differences.
Loans,	\$304,204,400	\$307,143,800	Inc. \$2,939,400
Specie,	56,319,600	57,856,500	Inc. 1,536,900
Legal tenders,	19,414,600	20,326,500	Inc. 911,900
Deposits,	282,523,800	288,412,300	Inc. 5,888,500
Circulation,	18,383,100	18,059,100	Dec. 324,000

The Philadelphia banks, in their statement of the same date, showed an increase in reserve of \$436,066. Their principal items were as follows:

	Dec. 9.	Dec. 16.	Differences.
Loans,	\$73,577,152	\$73,080,196	Dec. \$496,956
Reserve,	16,243,089	16,679,155	Inc. 436,066
National Bank Notes	715,933	665,580	Dec. 50,353
Due from Banks,	5,378,787	6,192,746	Inc. 813,959
Due to Banks,	11,095,575	11,552,216	Inc. 456,641
Deposits,	51,980,576	52,344,484	Inc. 363,908
Circulation,	9,738,491	9,790,600	Inc. 52,109
Clearings,	55,992,670	56,026,214	Inc. 33,544

The imports of specie, at New York last week, amounted to \$540,443. The shipments amounted to \$298,000, the whole of it being silver, and chiefly in American bars.

Concerning investments, the Philadelphia *Ledger*, December 19th, says: "The demand for well secured mortgages as an investment in this city continues unabated, and the quotation of mortgage rates may be given for first-class city at 4@4½ per cent., with exceptional cases at 5 per cent. Over two millions of dollars that we know of are at this time pressing for investment in mortgages, with first-class security, generally at 4@4½ per cent. Borrowers who have good security and credit seem to have no difficulty in placing mortgages at these low rates in Philadelphia, while it is not difficult to get loans on good rural property, nor too far away from the city, at 4½@5 per cent."

The flurry among the iron and steel makers appears to be over. At a large meeting of iron manufacturers, at Pittsburg, on Wednesday, showed low prices but good trade and "bright" prospects. The Tariff Commission bill was unanimously endorsed. The Superintendent of the South Chicago Rolling Mill says that, "at the reduced price of steel rails orders come in freely, and the mill will start soon, in order to retain their customers, even though they make no money." The steel mills of the Lackawanna Coal and Iron Company at Scranton are again working with a full force, "and have orders in hand which will ensure operations continuously for the coming year." The rail department will open next Monday afternoon.

The total exports of breadstuffs from the United States during the eleven months ending November 30, 1882, amounted in value to \$165,606,603, against \$210,318,432 for the corresponding period of 1881.

THE LARGEST WORKSHOP OF THE BODY IS THE LIVER, whose office it is to withdraw the bile from the blood; when this important organ does not act, the skin assumes a yellow appearance, and generally a sick headache sets in, with chilly sensations, and cold hands and feet, accompanied with loss of appetite. The system becomes clogged, the machinery does not work well, and both mind and body are disordered, the afflicted becoming cross and fretful, finding fault with everything around them. To any person in this condition Dr. D. Jayne's Sanative Pills are recommended; by their stimulating action the Liver soon recovers its healthy tone, and is enabled to perform its proper functions. Costiveness is cured and all the aggravating symptoms of biliousness removed.

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